

The GW Hatchet

Opinions

The editorial board argues Student Association senators must be held accountable for their financial frivolity. **Page 6**

Culture

Get a rundown of Tigerella, Western Market's newest enticing option. **Page 7**

Sports

Take a look at how women's volleyball's season is going and what to expect for the rest of the fall slate. **Page 8**

What's inside

Tracking COVID-19 **Weekly COVID-19 cases: 206** **Weekly positivity rate: 16.12%** **Change in cases since previous week: +167**
September 1 - September 7

Updated COVID isolation protocol spurs couch surfing, hotel stays for exposed students

FAITH WARDWELL
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

NIKKI GHAEMI
CONTRIBUTING NEWS EDITOR

When sophomore Rachel Zhao's roommate tested positive for COVID-19 earlier this month, she threw a few days' worth of clothes and belongings into a bag and left her two-person District House room, unsure of where she would go next.

For the next five days, she slept on spare mattresses in the rooms of friends until GW cleared her roommate from isolation.

"I just threw everything in a bag," Zhao said.

Zhao's week of crashing in rooms around campus comes as a byproduct of the University's isolation protocol updated in August, which no longer relocates residential students who test positive to separate isolation housing. Five students said they have paid for hotels to isolate themselves, slept on friends' couches and spare mattresses to avoid additional exposure or slept just feet away from a sick roommate as a result of the new protocol.

The new University guidelines recommend students stay with family or friends, book a hotel room or remain in their room while keeping a distance from their infected roommate. Officials said Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance no lon-



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY AUDEN YURMAN | SENIOR PHOTO EDITOR
The University's newly updated isolation protocol, released in early August, no longer relocates residential students who test positive to separate isolation housing.

ger considers college residence halls as "high-risk areas" because the usual age group of undergraduate students is

trict House while she waited for her roommate to complete her isolation period. She said she was forced to improvise

She said she tried to minimize any trips made back to her room to grab items to avoid catching the virus in the small studio space. She said she forgot shampoo and other essential toiletries in her rush to leave, so she borrowed them from friends instead of returning to her room.

"I feel like you don't want to really go back into a room that's being lived in by some-

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"I just threw everything in a bag"

RACHEL ZHAO

unlikely to experience severe cases of COVID if they're vaccinated.

Zhao said she stayed with two different friends in Dis-

trict House while she waited for her roommate to complete her isolation period. She said she was forced to improvise

her living situation after the positive test because she and her roommate had not made a plan for what to do if one of them got COVID.

Judge dismisses GW lawsuit over pandemic losses

GRACE CHINOWSKY
CONTRIBUTING NEWS EDITOR

A District Court judge last Wednesday dismissed a lawsuit that GW filed last year against an insurance company to seek compensation for building damages allegedly caused by coronavirus particles that infected residents spread through the air.

In the lawsuit filed last October, officials said Factory Mutual Insurance Company owed the University millions of dollars that the company refused to concede for the alleged damage despite an "all-risks" insurance policy that GW purchased from the firm in 2019. In the 12-page filing, District Court Judge Dabney Friedrich said the damages were not substantial enough to enact the insurance policy because coronavirus droplets can be cleaned off of surfaces and don't present long-term structural alterations or damage to GW properties.

The dismissal is a blow to GW's efforts to recover from financial strains caused by the pandemic, which officials said in the lawsuit cost the University "hundreds of millions" of dollars and led to a \$180 million budget gap during the fiscal year 2021.

The University argued that the presence of COVID-positive individuals within campus buildings in 2020 spread coronavirus droplets through the air to settle on surfaces in GW facilities, leading to building closures and causing "physical loss or damages" that the firm should cover. Friedrich cited the lack of "tangible alterations" and lasting damage in the campus buildings in the dismissal.

Officials argued the insurance company should reimburse the University for pandemic-related improvements to buildings, like HVAC system upgrades and installations of Plexiglas barriers and hand sanitizing stations.

Friedrich said while D.C. courts have not considered whether COVID-19 can cause physical loss and damages to property, the "overwhelming majority" of other courts that have examined the question have ruled that the virus does not meet the definition.

Equity, sustainability among academic priorities presented to Faculty Senate

IANNE SALVOSA
CONTRIBUTING NEWS EDITOR

In the absence of a broader strategic plan for the University, officials developed a set of academic priorities including academic medicine, equity and social justice, data science and sustainability and climate change.

Provost Chris Bracey announced at a Faculty Senate meeting Friday that deans and the Board of Trustees selected these priorities to build a basis for "comprehensive" planning moving forward. As the University undergoes a series of leadership transitions, it remains without a long-term strategic plan while officials wait for a permanent president to develop one with substantial fac-

ulty input.

The University will stand out from its peer schools and attract "world-class" faculty with its new academic priorities, like data science.

Bracey said officials are considering more online instructional offerings as part of GW's long-term academic vision. A task force investigating new teaching innovations from the pandemic encouraged an emphasis on remote work and teaching last October.

He said GW's commitment to anticipating the role of online courses in the future will establish the University as an internationally renowned institution.

"With regard to all of these academic priorities, the goals are to enhance GW's global reputation,

leverage the University's strength and competitive advantages and position the University for leadership and impact in key areas of global importance," Bracey said at the meeting.

Some faculty are concerned that other higher education institutions like American and Georgetown universities share the same priorities like inclusivity and social justice, and the University's new academic priorities will not necessarily distinguish GW from other schools.

Katrin Schultheiss, an associate professor of history and a faculty senator, said these academic priorities are in line with broader trends across higher education and are not unique to GW.

"I was disappointed, and I was

hoping to hear something a little more original than that," Schultheiss said.

Interim University President Mark Wrighton said the University will allocate more than \$50 million from GW's \$54 million sale of its 20 percent stake in the GW Hospital toward 14 endowed professorships to further prioritize academic medicine during the meeting.

Jenna Chaojareon, a member of the senate's operations team, introduced a new voting system for the Faculty Senate through Microsoft Forms since the former voting system through WebEx had been "confusing" for some senators. Under the new voting system, only senate staff members would be able to see how each senator

voted, unlike the previous virtual and in-person voting systems when voting records were visible to the public.

Bracey said University leaders introduced the five officials who were appointed to new positions in the Office of the Provost in June.

Geneva Henry - who became dean of libraries and academic innovation and vice provost for libraries and information technology - said among her top priorities, she wants to provide more computers to the GW community, after supply chain issues have decreased access to the technology.

"If our faculty and our students can't succeed, why are we here?" Henry said in the meeting.

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Stakeholders ask for more collaboration, representation in presidential search

DANIEL PATRICK GALGANO
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Students, faculty, staff and alumni called for an increased commitment to diversity and sustainability and wider community involvement in major decisions from GW's next president at a series of community forums that the Presidential Search Committee hosted last week.

Officials held seven forums last week - two each for faculty, staff and students and one for alumni - where attendees outlined their University culture and presidential concerns about a lack of resources for research, an inadequate role in the University's shared governance policy and frustration with GW's dependence on money from companies that focus on fossil fuel extraction. Officials said they will consider the feedback from the forums to create criteria and questions when interviewing and recruiting University presidential candidates over the coming months.

Faculty and staff attendees largely noted a lack of representation and resources within University shared governance and policy, while students said they wanted a president who would commit to sustainability and academic diversity and have a noticeable presence in

campus programming like interim University President Mark Wrighton, who regularly attends GW athletic and community events.

Trustee Roslyn Brock and Faculty Senate Executive Committee Chair Jim Tiel-sch, the chair and vice chair of the search committee, presided over the forums. Ilene Nagel, John Simon and Charlie Kaler, consultants from Education Executives - the outside search firm that GW selected in June to help guide the search process - also helped moderate the forums.

"We are interested in those issues that you think are important for the search committee to consider and to include in the individuals who we will speak with who have interest in leading this University into its third century," Brock said during the virtual staff community forum Friday.

Student forums: Sustainability and community engagement

Of the more than 50 students who attended the forums, a majority raised concerns about GW's environmental impact and financial relationship with the energy industry. Officials said in July 2020 that GW would divest its endowment from companies that focus on fossil fuel extraction by

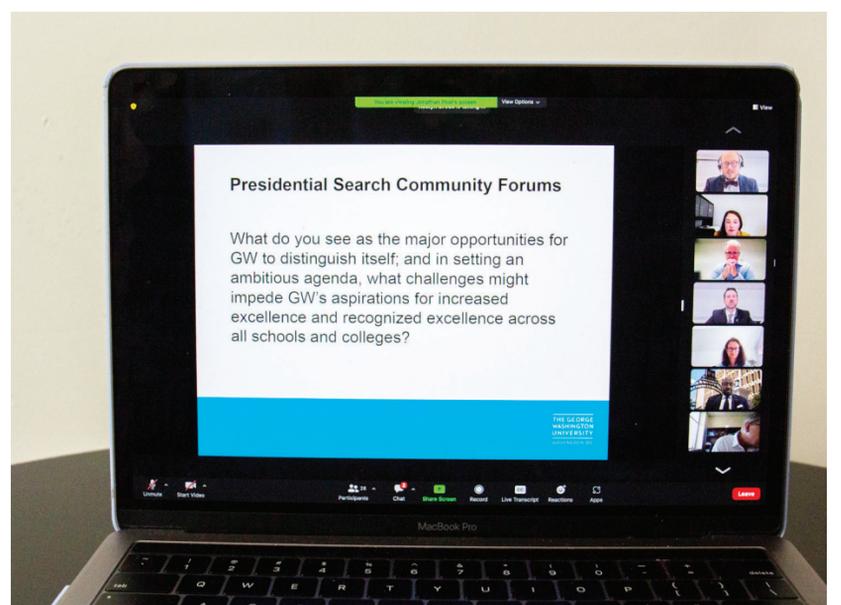
2025.

Bella Kumar, a sophomore studying political communications and American studies, said the next president should reform or sever ties to the Regulatory Studies Center, a research institute operated by GW that has received criticism for having a conservative and anti-regulatory political bias.

"Our futures are not promised," she said. "We are facing an urgent and existential crisis, and this University and its presidents have consistently pushed our concerns aside in an effort to maintain the school's bottom line."

Alex Stangl, a senior studying political science and psychology, said in addition to limiting the amounts of money GW has invested in the fossil fuel industry, officials should allocate more funding for students' direct use, like expanding budgets for student organizations. Officials announced the University would give the Student Association the responsibility of funding student organizations, instead of jointly funding organizations last year.

"It feels like, at least to me, and I'm sure you can ask other students, that its finances first and how can we benefit the pockets of people that have the most money already, it doesn't feel like it's being stuck with students,"



RACHEL SCHWARTZ | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR
Faculty and staff attendees noted a lack of representation within shared governance at GW, while many students said they wanted a president who would commit to sustainability.

he said.

Faculty forums: Resources for research and advancement

More than 70 faculty members participated in this week's forums, most of whom said GW doesn't give enough resources toward faculty research or clearly communicate policies around research and profes-

sional development to professors.

Faculty senators expressed concerns last April that the fiscal year 2022 budget should allocate more funds for research as GW emerges from the pandemic instead of keeping extra budget funds as a surplus.

Ralph Steinhart, a professor of international law who also sits on the Presidential Search Committee, said faculty have voiced

similar concerns about a lack of research funding at nearly every one of GW's presidential searches since the presidency of Lloyd Elliott, GW's 14th permanent president from 1965 to 1988.

"We are not simply trying to send an 'F.U.' message to our prior presidents," he said. "We are trying to find somebody who rises above."

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News

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

FINDING PURPOSE IN A NEW HOME

Tuesday, Sept. 13 | 7 p.m. EDT | University Student Center | Free
Join an event hosted by No Lost Generation GWU with an Afghan refugee, Zafar Azam, who will discuss his journey to the United States.

INTEGRATING DOCTRINE AND DIVERSITY SPEAKER SERIES: MAKING CHANGES, MAKING MISTAKES

Wednesday, Sept. 14 | 4 p.m. EDT | Virtual | Free
Tune into a discussion hosted by GW Law about how to handle offensive language in the classroom as a law professor.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Sept. 12, 1996

Reform Party presidential candidate Ross Perot selects economist and GW adjunct professor Pat Choate as his running mate in the 1996 election, surprising University officials.

Students face gym fees, limited exercise facilities during Lerner's closure

FAITH WARDWELL
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

On the third floor of the University Student Center, eight exercise bikes, two rowing machines, two benches and various medicine balls and barbells scatter an otherwise barren conference room.

The makeshift gym is the new physical fitness space on the Foggy Bottom campus, open seven days a week from 7 a.m. to midnight as the Lerner Health and Wellness Center enters its fourth month of renovations. Until Lerner's targeted mid-fall reopening, the third-floor room in the student center and the West Hall gym on the Mount Vernon campus remain the only options for free gym access at GW.

"I was very, very unimpressed with the space," sophomore Cameron Mays said about using the student center workout space. "And really, it didn't allow me to do what I usually do, especially in Lerner."

Lerner closed its doors in early May to update its HVAC system, upgrade equipment and redesign the building's layout, and officials are offering alternative exercise spaces in the University Student Center and West Hall until the building reopens to students later this semester. More than 10 students said they are looking past GW's scant fitness offerings to join off-campus gyms, play sports with friends and run outdoors.

Mays, who studies political science and economics, said he's worked out in the student center about five times since August and was surprised to see how "under-equipped" the space was, especially the lifting equipment that he typically uses. The student center workout room currently includes barbells but not dumbbells.

"I think it's unfortunately forced a lot of people to go to off-campus gyms and to spend more of their money that way," Mays said.

Mays said he relied on affordable alternatives, like running outside and playing basketball at a court in Georgetown, to avoid addi-

tional gym fees off campus. He said he looked into local gym memberships that the Lerner website recommends, but he was disappointed to see membership prices reach as high as \$199 per month and modest student discounts varying by gym.

Students can display a school ID at gyms like Orangetheory Fitness, Soul Cycle and Washington Sports Club for a student discount at those gyms. Lerner also promotes the Active & Fit program, which grants access to 7,500 partnered gyms for \$29 per month plus a two-month minimum, an enrollment fee and taxes.

"I think what really made me the most upset was the campus recreation site recommending and advising people to pay more money," Mays said. "They're like, 'Oh, you can just get this special discount,' but it's like, why are you telling me to do this?"

Andre Julien – the senior associate athletic director of recreation, wellness and club sports – said to replace Lerner's facilities, campus recreation staff drew maps of walking and running routes to replace treadmill cardio, decided to keep the Mount Vernon Campus pool open on weekends until Oct. 2 and created group fitness classes in the District House dance studio.

"The GW campus recreation team continues to provide for our students' physical well-being needs while the Lerner Health and Wellness Center is temporarily closed this fall," Julien said in an email. "Since we cannot host students inside the building while work is being performed, physical well-being opportunities in other locations both on and off campus are being offered until the building reopens."

Julien said the University offering discounted memberships at local gyms has allowed students to partake in specialized exercise offerings like spin classes if the on-campus offerings haven't appealed to them.

Piper Macke, a junior studying data science and a member of the GW women's basketball team, said exercising at Lerner was crucial for



RACHEL SCHWARTZ | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

The student center workout space provides access to equipment like rowing machines, upright bikes, free weights and training balls and is open seven days a week from 7 a.m. to midnight.

her to strengthen her skills off the court. She said she would regularly utilize Lerner's weightlifting rooms before its hiatus, but now she has started paying for a Gold's Gym membership to stay active because of Lerner's closure.

"I really like to just have something that I do that's completely outside of basketball and isn't always about getting better in my sport," Macke said. "I like to have something just for me, and if I have to pay 15 extra dollars a month for a few months before Lerner is opened again, I'm willing to do so."

Macke said driving to the Gold's Gym in Rosslyn, Virginia has added an extra "hassle" in allotting time to work out alongside classes, practice and other commitments. She said she has had to skip workouts if traffic was too heavy or if she didn't have time in her schedule to

make the commute.

"I really wish that there were some other discounts or even anything that was just in walking distance because I looked really hard when I heard it was going to be closed all summer for some kind of gym within walking distance," Macke said.

Senior Kate Carpenter, who studies political communication, said she has started attending CorePower Yoga's Georgetown, Dupont Circle and Adams Morgan locations since Lerner's closure while receiving a 10 percent student discount and an additional 50 percent off for helping clean yoga mats and other equipment after her classes. CorePower Yoga charges \$15 if members cancel their class reservation after the deadline, a charge Carpenter said has been a burdensome expense.

Carpenter said she likes to keep in mind that future GW classes will benefit from the renovations officials are working on in Lerner.

"I think to the future, and I'd rather the students in the future be able to experience a one-of-a-kind gym, and so that means we have to miss out for four months," Carpenter said.

Carpenter said Lerner's closure inspired her to start an intramural pickleball league where she meets daily to play with friends at the Federal Reserve tennis court near campus and organizes monthly tournaments.

"I do feel like there are definitely ways to stay active," Carpenter said. "I don't know if they're super cost efficient. I have not found one that is, unless I'm running outside in 98 degrees."

Officials bolster medical enterprise with 14 professorships funded by sale of hospital stake

ERIKA FILTER
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Interim University President Mark Wrighton announced Friday that University officials will direct more than \$50 million into 14 new professorships to bolster GW's medical enterprise.

Officials will use \$50 million from the University's sale of GW Hospital in May to fund the professorships, nine of which will be in the School of Medicine and Health Sciences, according to a University release. Wrighton said the professorships are crucial to supporting GW's recruitment of medical experts and the University's mission to improve health research and patient care.

Officials will also fund one professorship in the Milken Institute School of Public Health, one in the

School of Nursing, two in the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences and one in the School of Engineering and Applied Science.

"George Washington University faculty are key to our mission of education, research and patient care, and endowed professorships are critical to our recruiting efforts and ability to further this mission," Wrighton said in the announcement.

Officials sold GW's 20 percent stake in GW Hospital in May for about \$54 million, according to minutes of a June public hearing with the State Health Planning and Development Agency within the D.C. Department of Health.

Barbara Bass – dean of SMHS, vice president for health affairs and CEO of the Medical Faculty Associates – said faculty in SMHS and the MFA strengthened GW Hospital

over the years and said the new professorships is a "stride" to making GW a premier health care destination.

"The recognition of the GW academic medical enterprise as a national health care destination will fundamentally be built on clinical performance excellence, but it is renowned faculty who bring transformative clinical expertise, discovery and innovation that will fuel that success," she said in the release. "These endowed professorships are evidence of our commitment to that future."

The University will begin searching for faculty to appoint to these professorships "over the coming months," per the release. Officials will announce the first professorship, which will be within SMHS, this fall.

Officials fill vacant Office of Advocacy and Support leadership positions

ZACH BLACKBURN
SENIOR NEWS EDITOR

Officials hired a new director and advocacy specialist within the Office of Advocacy and Support after several officials left the office over the course of the past year.

University spokesperson Josh Grossman said an advocacy specialist has joined the office and a new director will join later this month. Grossman declined to say who filled the advocacy specialist role, but said officials have started the search to fill the office's prevention specialist role.

"The University collaborated with student leaders, including from the Student Association and Students Against Sexual Assault executive leadership, throughout the hiring process for both staff members and has received positive feedback from students and other members of the GW community about the staff members' qualifications and ability to lead OAS and support GW students," Grossman said in an email.

The OAS' previous advocacy specialist, Nada Elbasha, left the University earlier this year after she



HATCHET FILE PHOTO

Officials said administrators have started the search to fill the office's prevention specialist role.

filed a civil rights complaint against the University in November 2021 alleging the University discriminated against Palestinian students. The complaint states that representatives from the Board of Trustees and the Office of the President called an

emergency meeting on June 3 to instruct OAS to take down information about a "virtual processing space" for Palestinian students that the office had posted on its Instagram the day before in the wake of outbreaks of violence in Gaza.

CRIME LOG

THREATS IN A MENACING MANNER

Elliot School of International Affairs
9/6/2022 – 10:41 a.m.

Open Case
GW Police Department officers responded to a report of a dispute. Upon arrival, officers made contact with two male University contractors who were involved in a verbal altercation. One contractor reported the other contractor lunged at him with a clenched fist.
Case open.

THEFT II/FROM BUILDING

Mitchell Hall (7-Eleven Store)
9/7/2022 – 1:45 p.m.

Open Case
GWPD officers responded to a report of theft. Upon arrival, officers made contact with a female store employee who said that an unknown male subject had stolen a key ring. GWPD canvassed the area but were unable to locate the subject.
Case open.

THEFT II/FROM BUILDING

District House
9/7/2022 – 7:18 p.m.

Open Case
A female student reported her backpack stolen after leaving it unattended.
Case open.

SIMPLE ASSAULT

800 Block of 21st Street
9/8/2022 – 6:40 p.m.

Closed Case
A male student reported being the victim of an assault when he was slapped in the face by an unknown male subject while walking on 21st Street.
No identifiable subject.

LIQUOR LAW VIOLATION

Thurston Hall
9/9/2022 – 12:16 a.m.

Closed Case
GWPD officers responded to Thurston Hall after receiving a report of an intoxicated male student. EMeRG responders arrived on scene and after performing a medical evaluation, the student was transported to the GW Hospital Emergency Room for further treatment.
Referred to the Division for Student Affairs.

— Compiled by Grace Chinowsky

Students to supply aid, push reform to protect sexual assault survivors this fall

NIKKI GHAEMI
CONTRIBUTING NEWS EDITOR

As GW continues to reform Title IX policy, student organizations are forging their own paths to advocate for student survivors of sexual assault.

During the past year, students have taken to social media to share their personal stories about sexual assault on campus, their experiences with the Title IX Office and widespread dissatisfaction with the reporting process. Activist groups centered around sexual assault prevention at GW plan to fundraise with other student organizations and call on officials to bolster the Office of Advocacy and Support this fall after staff departures left gaping vacancies last summer.

Members are aiming to raise awareness of sexual assault in an effort to increase campus safety and educate students on the resources available to them. Each of these three groups has established plans to advocate for survivors this fall.

We've outlined the advocacy efforts from leaders of the charge for more stringent Title IX protections this fall — GW Survivors, GW Protects Rapists and Students Against Sexual Assault:

GW Survivors — Distributing emergency funds for survivors

Instagram account GW Survivors shares stories from anonymous students about their experiences reporting incidents of sexual assault to officials, including the Title IX Office. Two anonymous students have run the account since one of them created the profile in May,

posting infographics over the summer to advocate for changes to GW's approach to sexual violence, specifically regarding the Title IX reporting process.

"I think a big piece of what I've heard from a lot of survivors is for the first month, everyone in your life cares, everyone wants to hear about it and they bring you lunch and they sit with you while you cry and then they expect you to be all better," the account's owner said. "And you're not all better. It's something that honestly you're going to carry with you for the rest of your life."

The owner asked The Hatchet to remain anonymous to maintain her safety and privacy as a survivor of sexual assault.

She said she plans to distribute emergency funds as mutual aid for sexual assault survivors to access resources like therapy and medication copays, reproductive health care and legal assistance, which survivors will be able to request money from via a Google form.

The owner of the account said GW Survivors is currently focusing on fundraising for a survivor in the GW community who is trying to leave a "domestic abuse situation." She said they have raised about \$300 of their \$1500 fundraising goal.

She said GW Survivors' fundraising efforts are independent from the University to sidestep potential obstacles that could come with registration as a student organization.

"We don't adhere to their politics, we don't adhere to their red tape and we don't adhere to their rules," she said.

The account's original founder said their mission is to change how the University

approaches cases of sexual assault to avoid "creating more trauma" for survivors who choose to report their cases. She said GW must reduce the number of times survivors need to retell their experience while filing a report.

Asha Reynolds, the Title IX director and coordinator, said GW's Title IX "sexual harassment and related conduct policy" states survivors can pursue a formal resolution for a case through a three-step process involving a notice of allegations sent, an investigation and a hearing. She said survivors can seek an alternate resolution, a process "grounded in restorative justice" that attempts to reduce harm that the misconduct may have caused for the survivor and can result in disciplinary action for the assailant, if officials deem it necessary.

GW Protects Rapists — Advocating for the OAS

Another student advocacy group for sexual assault survivors, GW Protects Rapists, gained traction last October after staging a silent protest at Commencement in response to the University's alleged mishandling of Title IX cases.

Senior Abby Canning, one of the creators of GW Protects Rapists, said the group is establishing a leadership team this semester so it can remain active after she graduates this December. She said she and her co-president are developing "action plans" and programming committees for the group to focus their efforts on making sure the OAS is "well-staffed and well-funded."

"It's been pivotal in my own healing and the healing of a lot of people I've talked

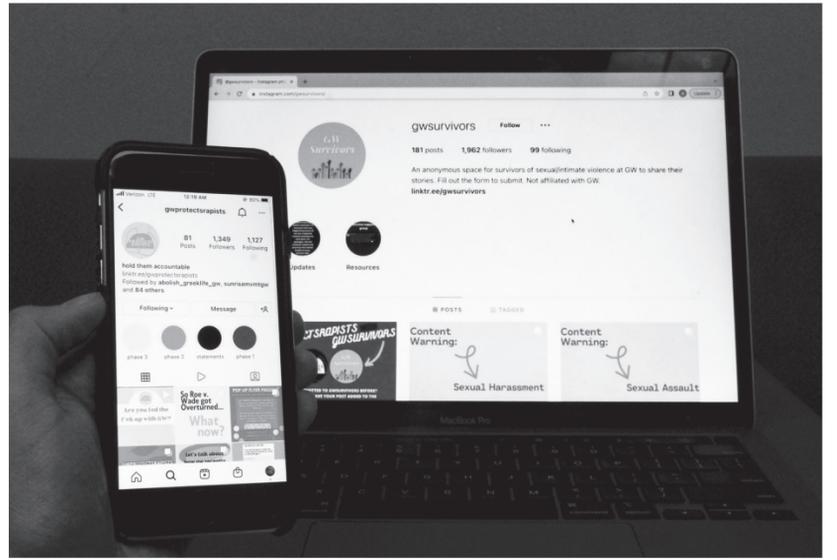


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY AUDEN YURMAN | SENIOR PHOTO EDITOR

The student groups all aim to raise awareness of sexual assault in an effort to increase campus safety and educate students about the resources available to them.

to, so it's really important that OAS continues to get the support it deserves," Canning said.

University spokesperson Josh Grossman said the University hired an OAS advocacy specialist, who joined in the summer, and an OAS director, who will join in late September. He said the University is also planning to hire an OAS prevention specialist.

Canning said she has seen the University's hiring of OAS staff as a "positive change."

Like GW Survivors, Canning said the group made a "conscious" decision to not become a registered organization on campus because members want to be completely independent from and "less impacted" by the University.

"We're trying to follow the model of having an organization without actually be-

ing under GW's thumb," she said. "So that's kind of the unique way we've positioned ourselves here."

Students Against Sexual Assault — Collaborating with the administration

Bella Sayegh, a senior and co-president of Students Against Sexual Assault, said SASA's status as a registered student organization has been advantageous because they have been able to hold "constructive conversations" with the administration about their activism. She said the University asks them to collaborate during situations regarding sexual violence on campus that "necessitate student input."

"We're able to have conversations with the University and advocate for survivors in a way that other groups might not be able to," she said. "And we love to see the

rise of other groups, especially on social media, that help to support survivors."

She said the group plans to continue its weekly virtual survivor support group, which they have been hosting for multiple years, where survivors of sexual assault can talk through their personal experiences with peers, and students can email SASA to join. She said they are planning bake sales to help fundraise for other organizations, which they will decide on later this fall.

Sayegh said SASA plans to continue programming from the past school year, like organizing virtual workshops on sexual violence prevention with organizations on campus.

"We found that in all different areas, people are really willing and ready to have conversations that are really difficult," Sayegh said. "That's important."



FILE PHOTO BY DANIELLE TOWERS | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

Bracey said officials have agreed to adopt all of the task force's data privacy recommendations and reorganize GW Information Technology and the Office of Ethics, Compliance and Risk.

Officials announce new data privacy guidelines after tracking project

DANIEL PATRICK GALGANO
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Officials announced that GW will adopt a new set of data privacy guidelines after officials tracked community members' whereabouts without their knowledge last fall.

Provost Chris Bracey said officials are implementing the new guidelines to be in line with "appropriate" data laws and regulations, to make decisions around data and privacy rules transparently and clearly communicate new rules on how to use community members' personal information. The new guidelines come from GW's data privacy task force which made a series of recommendations for data privacy on campus over the summer after officials used the Wi-Fi system to track community members without their consent.

"The recommendations from this group — the data privacy task force — were submitted over the summer to the administration for the administration's consideration," Bracey said in a Faculty Senate meeting Friday. "I'm grateful for the work that the task force has done here and the collaborative effort that was undertaken to identify core principles and additional actions as we continue to work to develop a data governance policy."

Bracey said officials have agreed to adopt all of the task force's recommendations and reorganize GW's information technology division and the Office of Ethics, Compliance and Risk. Officials have reshuffled much of the University's administration, placing GWIT back under the Office of the Provost and slotting communications and human resources under the president after the chief financial officer's purview throughout the last few years.

"In addition, since the data privacy task force was formed, the University has implemented several structural changes that better align the IT infrastructure and office with the academic mission of the University," Bracey said in an email to community members Friday.

GW's privacy policy states that any party acting on behalf of the University and processing data from the GW community must make a privacy notice to online users explaining how the information will be used.

Bracey said officials are considering several additional policies, including establishing a new data governance plan with the Faculty Senate's input, allowing Student Association leaders to take part in data sharing policy decisions, amending the University's

privacy notice and implementing a new review and approval process for potential future data analytics projects similar to the one conducted last fall.

In interim University President Mark Wrighton's original email to community members notifying them about the data tracking project last February, he said officials "de-identified" the data, meaning staff could track information like gender, but not community members' names. He said in February while some officials may have had the ability to view individualized information, officials did not review individual information in the collected data, and any remaining data from the Wi-Fi tracking and collection would be destroyed.

Last February, officials came under harsh criticism from faculty senators for lacking the appropriate infrastructure to monitor data collection on campus and failing to stop the data tracking program. At the time of the tracking last fall, both GWIT and the Office of Ethics, Compliance and Risk fell under the purview of former Chief Financial Officer and Executive Vice President Mark Diaz.

Bracey said officials will continue to review the new data privacy guidelines and update the community if administrators implement new data usage rules.

SMPA extends relief fund for students in financial need

SOPHIA GOEDERT
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The Cokie and Steve Roberts SMPA Student Support Fund, an expansion of the Cokie Roberts Tuition Relief Fund started in the summer of 2020, opened applications for School of Media and Public Affairs students facing financial hardship last week.

The fund was created to support undergraduate students undergoing financial emergencies or unmet financial need during any time of the year and applications will be accepted on a rolling basis. Officials said applications for the new fund will be accepted on a rolling basis throughout the school year to ensure student's needs are met as quickly as possible.

Colette Coleman, the dean of students, and Silvio Waisbord, the director of SMPA, said the fund was extended because of a "philanthropic gift" from Steve Roberts, the J.B. and M.C. Shapiro professor at SMPA, after Roberts received words of gratitude from students who benefited from the first iteration of the fund. Colette and Waisbord said the Division of Student Affairs and SMPA are engaging in "innovative" collaboration and are partnering together to lead the fund.

"Each student's financial realities are as unique as each of their contributions to the GW communi-

ty," Coleman and Waisbord said in an email, "Every student's story is worthy of care."

Colette and Waisbord said financial awards to students typically range from up to \$7,500 per student but there isn't a maximum award amount. They said the consideration of each student's individual application and goal of supporting as many students as possible creates a nimble and unique approach to helping students.

Officials said the previous iteration of the fund helped more than 50 students and the new fund is aiming to help as many students as possible by removing financial barriers students and their families may encounter at any given time, even mid-semester. Coleman and Waisbord said the fund will be advertised to SMPA students throughout the school year to ensure students are aware of the help offered by Roberts and the School.

"While this fund is dedicated to supporting SMPA undergraduates, the students with whom Professor Roberts has spent much of his teaching career," officials said, "He hopes it could serve as a model for other donors who are passionate about supporting students experiencing financial hardship."

Steve Roberts, the J.B. and M.C. Shapiro, professor at SMPA, said after implementing the initial fund

in 2020 to combat financial struggles caused by the COVID-19 pandemic the fund helped 64 students stay in school and awarded more than \$300,000 to students and was expanded to the permanent Student Support Fund after he realized there would always be a need for financial assistance at GW.

"When we diversify, with that comes an obligation to help these students we're bringing in not only make it through GW, but fully benefit from the experience and financial strain can be such a blight on a student's life here," Roberts said.

Roberts said the fund is an "experiment" and expects to tweak aspects of the fund in the coming years and refine the fund to act as a model for other universities to copy. He said he's "committed" himself to the University to finance the fund for five years.

Roberts said GW has changed in many good ways since he first started teaching here 30 years ago and the best change is the enrichment of classrooms through diversifying the student body and exposing students to many different perspectives and experiences.

"Our obligation to these students does not end when we bring them to Foggy Bottom. It begins when we bring them to Foggy Bottom," Roberts said.



FILE PHOTO BY DANIELLE TOWERS | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

Roberts said he hopes the fund can help students facing financial hardship to remain in school.



AUDEN YURMAN | SENIOR PHOTO EDITOR

Labor union negotiations started in 2016 after a previous agreement expired and stalled in 2018 when GW Hospital ceased bargaining with the union.

Ethics scandal triggers potential reconsideration of hospital labor fight

TYLER KRAMBEER
STAFF WRITER

The National Labor Relations Board is positioned to reconsider whether the GW Hospital violated fair labor practices in 2018 in the latest development of a local union's four-year legal battle.

Representatives from 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East, the union that previously represented GW Hospital's workers, voiced approval last month in an NLRB filing for the board to reconsider a dismissal of unfair labor practice charges against the hospital from April 2021. Two NLRB members said in a separate July filing that the board should vacate and re-adjudicate their earlier decision after a former board member was found to have owned shares of the hospital's parent company during the dismissal vote in violation of federal financial disclosure regulations.

Lisa Brown — the executive vice president for the D.C. and Maryland regions of 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East, the union that previously represented GW Hospital's workers — said union leaders are unable to advocate for and communicate with workers without a union contract and due to fear among workers of retaliation from the hospital. She said the lack of a union has led to high turnover at the hospital, and workers fear retaliation from management because former union leaders have been terminated.

"Members then become afraid to talk to the union anywhere around the University or hospital, and they have definitely gone after some of the leaders that we did have contact with, which makes them even more nervous," Brown said.

William Emanuel, one of the NLRB board members who reviewed the case leading up to the dismissal of charges against GW Hospital, failed to disclose his ownership of more than \$50,000 in a sector mutual fund with shares of Universal Health Services, the hos-

pital's owner. The NLRB's Inspector General found in March that Emanuel's stock ownership violated federal codes regulating financial disclosure because of his failure to disclose the potential conflict of interest with the case.

After the previous bargaining agreement expired in 2016, the union spent the next two years negotiating with GW Hospital. Still without an agreement in 2018, the hospital withdrew its recognition of the union and ceased bargaining, countering that a majority of employees demonstrated they were no longer interested in union representation.

In 2018, the union alleged the hospital committed unfair labor practices by bargaining in bad faith and unlawfully withdrawing the union's recognition. Brown said before negotiations in 2016, the union had never had any problems bargaining with GW Hospital.

In September 2019, an NLRB judge sided with the union, ruling the hospital illegally bargained "in bad faith" and withdrew recognition — unfair labor practices that would "likely cause loss of union support."

"The complaint further alleges that the Hospital improperly withdrew recognition from the Union after nearly two years of bad faith and regressive bargaining, subsequently rejected the Union's request to continue bargaining and immediately proceeded to implement unilateral changes to employees' terms and conditions of employment," the 2019 decision states.

GW Hospital appealed the ruling, which an NLRB board reversed in a 2-1 decision in April 2021. Republican members Emanuel, who is no longer on the labor board, and John Ring voted to dismiss the union's charges, while Democrat Lauren McFerran dissented.

McFerran and new Democratic board member David Prouty, who replaced Emanuel in 2021 after the initial decision was made, both said Emanuel should

have been disqualified from the case in a 2021 decision.

Brown, the union's executive vice president for the D.C. and Maryland regions, said GW Hospital used an invalid petition to justify its withdrawal from negotiations to the NLRB to gauge workplace interest in a union because former staff and current employees who were not members of the hospital's bargaining unit had signed it.

She said the hospital insisted on negotiating the entire contract instead of the union's proposal of a successor agreement — a smaller contract used to renew benefits from a previously expired or terminated contract — to stall the negotiations.

Brown said even if the NLRB overturned the 2021 dismissal decision, the union would struggle to bargain a new agreement because of the extended amount of time they have been inactive at GW Hospital. She said meetings with current workers to discuss which rights and protections they need would have to occur, which would likely be a long process.

"It would be difficult to bargain a successor agreement without meeting and knowing the workers that currently exist and getting an understanding of what they would want to see in an agreement," Brown said.

GW Hospital said in a filing last month that another reversal would be "draconian," and the original decision should be upheld. The filing states Emanuel was "unaware" of the alleged conflict of interest, and vacating the decision could disturb workers' stability if it were to bring forth another negotiation period.

GW Hospital did not respond to a request for comment.

"The investigation — which one must hope was thorough — failed to produce any evidence of actual knowledge of the disqualifying financial conflict (absent what was imputed) or bias in favor of any party," the hospital's response states.

As Milken reaches 25th year, officials reflect on the school's evolution

CAITLIN KITSON
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

As the Milken Institute School of Public Health eclipsed its 25th anniversary in July, officials said the school evolved from a fragmented subsection of the University's academic medical enterprise to an independent, innovative and highly-ranked institution.

Milken Dean Lynn Goldman, who has led the school since 2010, said her focus on recruiting "world-class faculty," promoting innovative research and negotiating for the 2011 independence from the University's former Medical Center — which housed the School of Medicine and Health Sciences, the School of Nursing and the public health school — have contributed to Milken's evolution and success. After a quarter century of growth, the public health school currently sits at the 11th spot on the US News and World Report's ranking of public health programs.

"I really wanted to build up our public health research," Goldman said in an interview. "I really felt that we had done extraordinarily well in terms of just plain growth."

Growth in community, independence and research

GW's public health school separated from SMHS in July 1997 to become an independent school. In the years that followed, the school struggled to recruit faculty as a brand new school with little funding, leading to criticism from the Faculty Senate for not having enough tenure-track professors.

Prior to the 2014 construction of its current building on 24th Street, the offices of The School of Public Health and Health Services were scattered across Foggy Bottom, from Ross Hall to leased buildings on K Street and M Street. And in 2006, the Faculty Senate listed the school as the second-highest priority for new facilities at the University.

Goldman said when

she became dean, she set out to recruit new department chairs whose experience and connections in the public health community made them "more able to build world-class faculty." Between 2010 and 2014, she hired more than 40 new faculty members.

"It's been a strategy that we've used, which is building the leadership cohort in terms of having not only the dean herself and the subdeans and all of that, but chairs who are leaders and who make good decisions about bringing other people on board," she said.

Jim Tielsch, the chair of the global health department, said the construction of the current Milken building in 2014 allowed for increased community and collaboration among faculty members because the facility allows them to all work under one roof.

Tielsch said separating from the University's former Medical Center in 2011 gave the public health school educational and financial independence and the opportunity to construct its own building. Before this separation, the public health school shared resources with SMHS and did not control its own budget.

In 2014, the public health school received \$80 million in donations from financier Michael Milken and media mogul Sumner Redstone, leading the Board of Trustees to switch the school's name from the School of Public Health and Health Services to the Milken Institute School of Public Health.

Goldman said portions of the donation fund the school's Sumner M. Redstone Global Center for Prevention and Wellness, which is working to improve the nutritional value of the D.C. food supply and innovative equipment.

"In public health, most people don't make a lot of money," she said. "They're comfortable, but they're not wildly wealthy. So we've had to seek out philanthropy from people of wealth who are not our alumni, which is not always the strategy that the University uses, but it's a key strategy for us."

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic

From the onset of the pandemic in March 2020, faculty members in the public health school have diverted their research and public policy efforts to focus on combating the virus.

Researchers in the school launched studies on the impact of COVID-19 on displaced populations, developed diagnostic tests for the University to test community members for COVID-19 and partnered with a Missouri health foundation to evaluate the state's response to the pandemic.

Tielsch said the COVID-19 pandemic also placed a "dent" in Milken's broader research endeavors because faculty members involved in global collaborations were not able to travel due to pandemic-related restrictions.

Looking to the future and celebrating the present

Goldman said Milken officials are "intentional about diversification" and making the school's faculty more representative of the world's population. She said fostering a diverse community of faculty members provides the school with insight into how to respond to public health issues that disproportionately impact marginalized communities, like the disproportionate impact monkeypox has on the LGBTQ+ community.

Goldman said she is excited about the restructuring of GW's academic medical enterprise in which the University's sale of its minority stake in GW Hospital left the Medical Faculty Associates and SMHS as its sole clinical institutions. She said she hopes to continue to strengthen the relationship between Milken and SMHS to work together to fight chronic diseases like cardiovascular disease.

"Some of what we need to do requires very strong clinical partnerships, so I'm very excited about some of the transformations that are happening over there," she said.



FILE PHOTO BY KATE CARPENTER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Goldman said Milken officials are "intentional about diversification" and making the school's faculty more representative of the world's population.

White House policy expands research accessibility in higher education: experts

CAITLIN KITSON
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Federally funded research must be open to the public as part of a White House memorandum issued last month — a new requirement that experts said will increase faculty and students' engagement with innovative research.

The memorandum, issued by the White House's Office of Science and Technology, states that all federal research funding agencies like the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Department of Energy must draft policies to make the peer-reviewed scholarly research that they fund available to the public. Information accessibility experts said the requirement will eliminate paywalls that prevent faculty and students from accessing federally-funded research and boost GW's wider efforts to promote the use of open-access academic resources.

"Immediate public access to America's research publications and data will serve our collective goals of accel-

erating scientific discovery, strengthening translation and policymaking and lowering the barriers of access to science for all of America," the memorandum reads.

The memorandum states that agencies that fund \$100 million or less in research have 360 days to submit their updated open access policies, while agencies that fund \$100 million or more in research have 180 days.

The National Institutes of Health, an agency with more than \$100 million in research funds, provides nearly 50,000 grants to more than 2,500 "universities, medical schools and other research institutions" and currently funds 140 research projects at GW, according to the agency's website.

"The extraordinary progress in open science and public access led by federal agencies has laid the foundation for these critical next steps," the memorandum states. "As we move forward together in implementing these critical actions, we will do so in partnership and with a shared vision for an ever-stronger and

more equitable federal scientific ecosystem."

Officials introduced a GW Libraries grant program in spring 2021 that awards faculty who adopted free, open-access materials. Officials awarded eight faculty members with grants ranging from \$250 to \$1,000 to switch to open-source materials between fall 2022 and fall 2023.

Peter Suber, the senior adviser on open access for Harvard Library, said the memorandum strengthens policies that a 2013 memorandum established during former President Barack Obama's administration, which only required agencies funding more than \$100 million in research to adopt open access policies, but did not include requirements that fund \$100 million or less like some humanities agencies.

"One of the small ones is the National Endowment for the Humanities, which was too small to be covered by the Obama guidelines, and therefore for the first time, U.S. federal open access policies will cover the humani-



FILE PHOTO BY COLIN BOHULA | PHOTOGRAPHER

The memorandum states agencies that fund \$100 million or less in research have 360 days to submit their updated open access policies, while agencies that fund \$100 million or more in research have 180 days.

ties, not just the sciences," he said.

Suber said the memorandum will provide faculty members with greater access to scholarly articles that they can share with their students.

He said in the past, faculty members often had to choose between only using the limited number of articles already freely available online or distributing photocopies of articles blocked by paywalls

to their students.

"With these policies, many more articles will become freely available, and it will be unquestionably lawful to access them without payment," he said.

Student Court schedules hearing on removal of Zidouemba as SA president

ERIKA FILTER
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The Student Court will hear arguments on Sept. 23 regarding whether the executive cabinet's attempt to remove Student Association President Christian Zidouemba in July was constitutionally valid, per a court order released Thursday.

The court rejected Zidouemba's motion to dismiss the case, saying the facts cited by the former executive Chief of Staff Cordelia Scales, who filed the complaint last week, "plausibly establish" a violation of the SA Constitution. Former legislator general Dylan Basescu, who is representing Scales, alleged Zidouemba overstepped his presidential powers by terminating Scales after she voted to remove him from office and claims he is not the legitimate president of the SA.

Chief Justice Devin Eager wrote in a memorandum following the order that the court will hear arguments on who the legitimate SA president was immediately after the removal vote and at the time Zidouemba sent the email terminating Scales. The order does not specify if the court will rule on Zidouemba's current legitimacy as SA president.

"The complaint should not be dismissed because it is not moot, improper, irrelevant, frivolous, previously decided or failing to comply with any appropriate rules

of procedure or governing documents," the memorandum reads.

Eager said the court does not need to decide immediately whether Article 15 allows executive cabinet members to permanently remove the SA president from office, as was claimed in Scales's response to the defense. He said the court can wait to deliberate until after both sides have presented further arguments.

Eager said that per the court's bylaws, it cannot rule on "political questions," so it cannot agree to the defense's argument that Zidouemba was not "incapacitated" as acting president. He said the court can only decide on whether the removal vote was constitutionally sound.

"The court does not get a vote," the memorandum reads. "The president does not get a vote. Only the vice president, chief of staff, legislator general, treasurer and communications director may vote."

Eager said the defense "completely misinterprets the Constitution in its motion to dismiss" when it argues that the president can only be removed temporarily. He said the executive cabinet's decision on whether the president is temporarily or permanently unable to serve and their subsequent decision on whether to temporarily or permanently remove the president "are two distinct things."

Legislator General Andrew Harding and Chief Counsel Juan Carlos Mora, who are representing



FILE PHOTO BY AUDEN YURMAN | SENIOR PHOTO EDITOR
Chief Justice Devin Eager wrote in a memorandum that the court will hear arguments on who the legitimate SA president was immediately after the removal vote and at the time that Zidouemba sent the email terminating Scales.

Zidouemba in the defense, called on Scales to "reverse her position and end this lawsuit."

"The OLG and OSLC are disappointed by the Student Court's decision to deny Student Association President Zidouemba's motion to dismiss, but respect the Student

Court's power of judicial review," they said.

Dylan Basescu, who is representing Scales in the case, said he is "confident" in the plaintiff's case. He said he requests Zidouemba respect any judgment made by the court.

"The court today confirmed that nobody in the SA is above the law," he said.

Both parties have until Sept. 15 at 11:59 p.m. to submit briefs to the chief justice. The court will hold a public hearing on Sept. 23 at 6 p.m. in the Burns Moot Court Room.

Officials support IT privacy changes, push for stronger community

From Page 1

In 2020, former officials consolidated GW Information Technology to be under former Chief Financial Officer Mark Diaz's purview and laid off dozens of technology staff in 2021 as part of pandemic-related budget cuts. GWIT received 751 support requests in the first week of the 2021-22 academic year, more than double the requests in the first week of the spring 2021 semester.

Henry said she and IT staff will be "sensitive" toward data privacy and are committed to finding a balance between using data to improve IT functional-

ity and respecting student, faculty and staff privacy.

Officials told the University community in February that officials tracked students, faculty and staff movements across campus without their consent last fall. Wrighton said he learned of the project shortly before communicating it to the GW community.

Bracey said at the meeting that officials would implement a series of data privacy guidelines this fall as part of a task force's work to devise data privacy recommendations after Wrighton was made aware of the data collection project.

Colette Coleman, the newly appointed vice pro-

vost for student affairs and dean of students, said she wants to teach students the meaning of being a part of the GW community so they can be proud of it. She said students had more opportunities to meet new people at this year's move-in because they did not have to quarantine after arriving on campus like previously required.

She said attendance at freshmen residence hall events and faculty-in-residence programs will build a sense of community and pride.

"We're excited and looking forward to that and we can't do that work without partnerships across the institution," Coleman said.



HATCHET FILE PHOTO

Bracey said GW's commitment to anticipating the role of online courses in the future will establish the University as an internationally known institution.

Staff, alumni call for more representation, prioritization of Elliott School in presidential search

From Page 1

Christine Pintz, a professor in the School of Nursing, said the University doesn't supply enough support or guidance to professors who are trying to conduct academic research or pursue grants, even though the Faculty Senate issued recommendations on how to reform the system this spring.

"I think that our aspiration is to be a really high-level research institution, but there's no way that we can achieve that with the system that we have presently," she said.

Staff forums: Having a seat at the table

In both staff forums, more than 80 participants said they felt underrepresented in University decisions, including on the Board of Trustees' Presidential Search Commit-

tee, which has one staff representative – Vice Provost for Diversity, Equity and Community Engagement Caroline Laguerre-Brown – out of 17 positions.

Kim Fulmer said Laguerre-Brown is an upper-level administrator and has different interests from her and many of her colleagues.

"I don't really feel that that person that is considered staff represents my interests because I make a much lower salary, and I am much lower in the hierarchy, and I'd really like to see someone who's lower on the hierarchy also be on this committee," she said.

Amy Cohen, the executive director of the Nashman Center for Civic Engagement and Public Service, said the next University president should form more connections with other D.C.-based institutions, like Cedar Hill Regional Medical Center, a GW-staffed hospital in Ana-

costia that will open in 2024, to provide opportunities for academic scholarship and diversity at GW.

"I hope that we will continue to expand some of the positive partnerships that we have been undertaking over the last 50 years," she said.

Alumni forums: Playing to GW's strengths

Many of the alumni who attended their forum said the University isn't taking advantage of its strategic location within the District or its highly ranked institutions like the Elliott School of International Affairs.

David Karl, who earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from GW in international affairs in 1984, said many alumni were unhappy with LeBlanc's presidency because they felt he moved away from investing in programs like the Elliott School and

focused on STEM-related departments instead.

Officials faced backlash for the controversial 20/30 plan – which called for a 20 percent cut in enrollment while upping the share of STEM majors by 30 percent.

David Earl, who earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in political communication in 2008 and a Master of Arts degree in global communication in 2015, said the next University president should focus on strengthening the student body's sense of community, whether by hosting more University programming with high-profile speakers or attending athletic games.

"I think GW alumni, at large, are really committed to seeing it be a school that is in the moment, that is in the new, that is in the now, and that's kind of in the mix," he said. "And I think that is where alumni get the most fired up."

Students with COVID-positive roommates left with few options

From Page 1

Zhao said officials should provide optional isolation housing for students who test positive, especially for those who are unable to stay with friends. She said she understands hotels may be out of budget for GW, but students should have the choice to protect their health.

"I don't think everybody would take the option," Zhao said. "Even if I was given the option, I think I would have chosen to stay with my friends just because it's more convenient for me."

Officials implemented isolation housing during the 2021-22 academic year to isolate COVID-positive students from their roommates in an effort to contain the spread of COVID on campus.

The University reserved beds last spring in Yours Truly – a local hotel north of Washington Circle – for students isolating with COVID. Students who tested positive in the 2020-21 academic year isolated in residence hall rooms left vacant due to limited on-campus housing.

COVID cases in D.C. last spring with about 3079 weekly positive tests reported in early May, but those totals have since dropped to about 85 weekly cases in the District currently. Officials have accordingly relaxed COVID policies and restrictions on campus, lifting the mask mandate outside of instructional settings, trans-

portation and healthcare facilities last week, ending the biweekly asymptomatic testing requirement in June and shortening the isolation period for infected students from 10 days to five in May.

University spokesperson Josh Grossman declined to comment on the current status of GW's isolation policy, deferring to GW websites with guidance for residents who test positive for COVID. GW requires students to undergo at least five days of isolation as a measure to "separate" COVID-positive people from others, but the University does not offer separate housing.

Campus Living and Residential Education's website states people who are sick should "limit" interactions and "sleep as far as possible away from each other" with beds spaced apart.

Maryana Shnitser, a sophomore living in a Guthridge Hall studio, said she stayed at three different friends' rooms for five nights while her roommate had COVID to avoid additional exposure in their shared bedroom, kitchen and bathroom. She said she did not have nearby family to stay with, and the cost of a hotel room would have been a financial burden.

"A lot of people offered their space as soon as I told them, which was really nice," she said. "And I'm grateful to have those people, but I know that that's not an option for everyone."

Shnitser said she took "minimal" belongings from her two-person Guthridge

Hall room, and moving from room to room each night was "uncomfortable." She said she didn't want to trouble the friends who were hosting her, so she'd try to find a new room after a few nights.

Shnitser said officials should implement an isolation housing option for students who test positive because it's unrealistic to put students in a living situation where they may have to live with a roommate infected with COVID-19.

"It just didn't feel fair that me or another person, if they were in that position, would have to stay in a room where they would get sick, essentially, with something that impacts everyone differently," Shnitser said.

Ava DelloRusso, a sophomore living in Shenkman Hall, said when she tested positive last week, she and her suitemates decided she would remain in the bedroom while her roommate would use the adjoining common room. She said her roommate slept on the couch for the first few nights before she decided to share the room with her at night even though DelloRusso had not completed her isolation period.

"I don't have family that lives close to here, so it's not like I can go pack up and go back home anywhere," DelloRusso said. "So it was really like, what can I do? What can we do to make the situation as safe as possible while I'm still staying in the room?"

TWEETED

When @Lorde performed in DC recently she told the crowd she swam in the Potomac.

In June, the House passed my provision authorizing the Army Corps to conduct a feasibility study on swimming, including enclosed swimming areas, in the Potomac + Anacostia.

Eleanor #DCstatehood Holmes Norton on 9/7/2022

TWITTER/@ELEANORNORTON

WHAT THE UNIVERSITY WON'T TALK ABOUT THIS WEEK

Who filled the advocacy specialist role within the Office of Advocacy and Support this summer. p. 2

FROM GWHATCHET.COM/OPINIONS

"From the ranks of George's Army to the River Horse by Lisner Auditorium, school spirit is alive and well on campus — you just have to know where to find it."

—KAMAU LOUIS on 9/8/2022

Opinions

With a bloated budget, the SA Senate reveals contempt for students STAFF EDITORIAL

The Student Association Senate's decision to publicly release its \$12,750 budget last month is a welcome exercise of transparency, but GW's student government has revealed far more than its spending. The organization's bloated budget, which includes \$4,000 just for catering alone, reflects its misplaced priorities and self-centered mindset. Students pay for the SA, and they deserve a government that serves them first—not one that helps itself.

Just like a tyrannical government, the senate can't help but shovel money away from its constituents and toward itself, sending a simple message — "let them eat cake." The senate is allotting itself \$7,250 for hosting events, \$4,000 for food and drink, \$1,000 for travel and \$500 for office supplies while student organizations clamor for funding to maintain their operations. Instead of playing pretend and padding their resumes, members of the SA must be held accountable for their financial frivolity.

This year's senate budget is admittedly smaller than last year's roughly \$19,000 operating budget, and the SA senate won't necessarily spend all the funds it allocated. Most students understandably don't care about the SA's bylaws or keep up with its latest drama, but its financial frivolity should catch their attention — its budget largely comes from a \$3 per credit hour fee students pay each semester on top of their tuition.

If the senate's mission is to "advocate, allocate, advertise and assist," it's falling short on every metric. The 269 student organizations that applied for funding from the SA this year received about 30 percent of their requests on average for a total of roughly \$1 million out of the nearly \$5 million they collectively requested. Of those 269 clubs, 258 received less than the SA's catering budget. Organizations like



JENNA BAER | CARTOONIST

GW RAGE and J Street U at GW saw their funding slashed to mere percentages of their initial requests. And other clubs, like GW Maternal and Child Health Network, received nothing at all.

Granted, it's not easy to disburse hundreds of thousands of dollars in a way that makes everyone happy, and lower enrollment over the past several years has dried up some of the SA's funding. The SA also rejected some requests that student organizations should have made to the University-wide Program Fund, which has a separate budget to sup-

port large-scale and multicultural events. Tightening the SA's purse strings for student organization allocations creates an imperative to preserve funding for clubs that need it the most. That's why the SA prohibits them from spending money on food and drink at internal events. Yet while student organizations pay their own way, the SA plays by its own rules — with its massive catering budget, senators chow down on Chipotle and feast on pizza at their meetings.

If burritos and pizza gave the SA the energy it needs to radically

improve GW, perhaps we could forgive what would otherwise seem like naked hypocrisy. But such change is few and far between and often the result of only a handful of people. While former SA Vice President Kate Carpenter spearheaded plans to expand SafeRide and worked alongside former SA President Brandon Hill to push U-Pass over the finish line, what accomplishments, if any, can this year's SA tout? Or is it too busy with its own sophomoric squabbles and parliamentary procedure to do anything besides spend students' money on

itself?

This self-induced budget blunder is just a symptom of a broader problem — the SA's members care more about padding their resumes, feeling powerful and, as we know now, getting a free meal or two than they do about helping their constituents. What reason do students have to care about the SA when it hardly shows any concern for them?

The SA can either empower its members' worst impulses and excesses, or it can begin to claw back from the abyss and earn the respect it demands from students. The SA can't rely on fresh blood to fix its longstanding problems, but it can start by meeting students where they are. Senators should ditch the suit and tie, grab a table in Kogan and introduce themselves to the people they claim to represent. Any senator who talked to a student for even a moment would surely have understood the poor optics and worse policy behind the SA's operating budget. Evidently, none of them did — the vote to approve the budget was unanimous.

For the SA to prioritize the student community above itself, its size, scope and, most of all, budget must come down. Democratic representation doesn't come from simply electing dozens of our peers whom we never see again. It comes from people who care about what students need and are determined to help them every step of the way — people the SA sorely lacks today. The SA's mindset and membership can either change, as impossible or unlikely as that may seem, or student government at GW can wither into oblivion.

We are tough on the SA because we know it can and should be better. Make no mistake, students deserve representation — just not like this. If the SA wants students to wine and dine them, it needs to earn their trust and respect first.

Mask-optional is the way to go, but we can't give up on safety

GW's decision to go mask optional in most indoor spaces brings a welcome relief from two years of health restrictions that have burdened student life. Being able to interact with our entire faces will restore a fundamental degree of communication and emotional health that masks had previously obscured.

William Bosco
Opinions Writer

When does a policy meant to keep a community safe no longer justify the imposition of individual freedom? For GW's mask mandate, that time has come. Our methods of fighting the spread and severity of the pandemic have evolved, case rates and hospitalizations in D.C. are low and the University's mask mandate came with a substantial burden to our collective social-emotional health.

A March 2021 report published in the scientific journal *Nature* details an array of concerns about the way masks alter our social well-being. The mouth is central to recognizing emotions, especially happiness, and because masks obscure a large part of our faces, they may compromise the social-emotional connections that normally "boost social bonds, empathy and playful interactions." The burden of mask mandates is especially concerning for children,

but social, mental and physiological well-being are also interdependent for college students and should all play into conversations about public health.

It makes sense why the administration would keep the mask mandate in effect for the classroom, which is one of the only indoor spaces where students, under a professor's gaze, still consistently mask. But it's clear this semester that GW's indoor mask mandate has lost its hold over most students. It seems likely that if the mask mandate were lifted for the classroom as well, most students would happily choose not to mask.

GW should consider extending the mask-optional policy to the classroom, where better social and emotional communication would be helpful for teaching and learning. The administration might gain more support for that change if they pursued a compromise like at Howard University, where masking is optional but faculty can require masks in their classrooms. A similar system of case-by-case compromises would better cater to individual GW community members who face varying social costs and protective benefits of masking.

Although GW is mask optional in most indoor spaces, masking still grants much-needed protection. Scientific data assures that students can still attend in-person classes safely

without a mandate hanging over them.

The new mask-optional policy is a welcome change, but we cannot forget the needs of those in our community who are most vulnerable to infection. Officials' decision in June to lift the mandatory testing requirement has prompted valid concerns from students who are immunocompromised.

Biweekly testing was convenient and effective. Without it, we are far less able to detect asymptomatic cases and set COVID-19 policies based on complete community data. Even now that we are mask optional, individuals can still make the choice to mask, but without mandatory testing, we all lose out on a tool that has thus far been central to GW's pandemic response. Officials' choice to end the

GW's mask mandate gave us an unmeasurable, but likely marginal, level of community protection. And it levied an unmeasurable, but definitive, tax on our social-emotional health. Going mask optional is a welcome change, but it cannot come at the expense of total complacency with regard to public health. In the interest of continued COVID safety, GW should return to mandatory testing and encourage the use of N-95 masks. But the choice to wear them should be yours.

—William Bosco, a senior majoring in philosophy and political science, is an opinions writer.

Colonials moniker renaming sets new pinnacle of shared governance

For the past several years, GW's faculty have rarely applauded the University's administration. But the presidential administrations of Thomas LeBlanc and Mark Wrighton and the Board of Trustees all deserve praise for their handling of the push to change the Colonials moniker. In June, the Board decided to end the use of Colonials after the current academic year, and it did so with a process that is beyond reproach.

Denver Brunzman
Guest Contributor

The past three years of deliberation over the moniker have raised the ceiling of shared governance, bringing together students, faculty, staff, alumni, athletics and the rest of the administration in a common pursuit of determining whether the Colonials name best reflects the values of the University.

The administration wisely established a two-step process, creating the Naming Task Force to determine the overall process and criteria for evaluating a campus name change and establishing a Special Committee on the Colonials Moniker to decide whether to recommend renaming.

I had the privilege of serving as a member of the Naming Task Force and as an adviser for the Special

Committee on the Colonials Moniker. Never in my 19 years as a professor have I been involved in campus efforts with such broad representation.

The task force and committee both worked with a spirit of inquiry worthy of a top research university. The final product of the Naming Task Force, a framework for considering the renaming of campus buildings and other names, stands among the most careful and fair processes of its kind at any American college or university.

Not everyone is happy with the University's decision to drop Colonials, but I would hope that even the strongest opponents would recognize the thoroughness and transparency of the process. Compare this exhaustive deliberation to the arbitrary manner in which a single faculty member and administrator, Elmer Louis Kayser, came up with the Colonials moniker in 1926.

The special committee acknowledged in its final report that it had uncovered a divisive issue. In 2019, the student body voted to drop Colonials by a narrow majority of 54 percent.

One could ask whether it is worth dropping the moniker without overwhelming support for a change. But what percentage of students need to feel uncomfortable or offended by a name before it is changed. 10 percent? 20 percent? More?

The Colonials moniker has worn out its original purpose of unifying and rallying the University community.

Critics of the decision have also warned that the name of The George Washington University is next. But as one of its first decisions, the task force determined that GW's name was off limits.

Another misinformed charge suggests that dropping Colonials is a slight against George Washington. For Washington, who was committed to the American Union, "colonial" was synonymous with provincialism and small-mindedness, not the marks of either a great nation or a leading research university in the 21st century.

As a University community, we now have the chance to replace Colonials with a name that reflects George Washington and GW's diverse stakeholders. I encourage the administration and Board of Trustees to follow the same inclusive, deliberative and stakeholder process that it has already used. And I urge all students, alumni, faculty and staff — especially critics of the decision to drop Colonials — to become involved in this new naming process. My vote is for Buff & Blue. How about you?

—Denver Brunzman is an associate professor and the associate chair of the history department.

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Culture

THE SCENE

ARLO PARKS

Monday, Sept. 12 | 9:30 Club | \$36
Catch an invigorating performance by indie-pop artist Arlo Parks on her Collapsed in Sunbeams tour featuring opener Del Water Gap.

DC COMEDY FESTIVAL

Tuesday, Sept. 13 to Saturday, Sept. 17 | Various venues | \$15
Enjoy a wide-ranging lineup of more than 100 comedians local from D.C., including budding stars and national headliners.

RELEASED THIS WEEK:

NEW SINGLE: "BETTER VERSION" BY FLETCHER

Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with these cultural events around D.C.

CLARA DUHON
CULTURE EDITOR

SUNDHYA ALTER
REPORTER

Thursday marks the first day of Hispanic Heritage Month, ringing in a cultural celebration of food, music and hard-fought social change that will last until mid-October.

The University and the District offer a mix of vibrant events honoring the hallmarks of Hispanic culture that have shaped DMV communities for generations. Celebrate Hispanic culture on campus, learn to cook a traditional Mexican meal at the National Museum of American History and learn about the history of discrimination that has targeted the Hispanic community across the region.

To make the most of what Hispanic Heritage Month has to offer, don't miss these events:

All month: the Multicultural Student Services Center's Latinx Heritage Celebration

Each year, the MSSC selects a theme that guides monthlong celebrations for the cultural mosaic on campus. MSSC Graduate Coordinator Keyla Ruiz said this year, student-led Latino organizations like GW Alianza and the Organization for Latin American Students teamed up with MSSC to reveal the 2022 theme, "United Community, Can't be Divided." She said the theme reflects the collaboration between Latino orgs and MSSC to plan the events, in addition to the hardships of the past few years

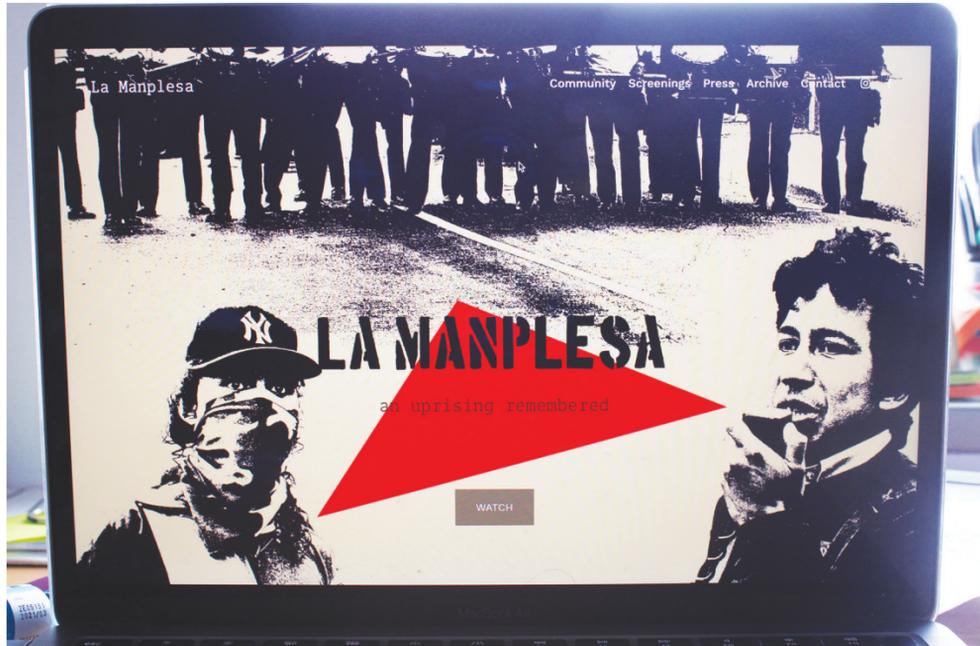


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY KRISHNA RAJPARA | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR
Watch a film about the 1991 protests that took place in D.C. after the police shooting of Salvadoran local Daniel Gomez at Art All Night – the District's annual arts festival in Mount Pleasant.

that have broken communities. To kick off the celebrations, Ruiz said OLAS is hosting "Meet the Familia" Thursday for the GW Latino community to gather together. She said cultural performances, guest lectures and educational sessions will take place throughout the month, including a conversation about gun violence hosted by Lambda Pi Chi, a Latina-based sorority at GW.

Saturday, Sept. 17: Cooking up History: Celebrating Comida Chingona & the Low-Rider Lifestyle

Feast your eyes on a cooking demonstration with Chef Silvana Salcido Esparza, who highlights Mexican American culture as she crafts her smoked cochinita pibil – a traditional Mexican dish made of pork and vegetables – at the Na-

tional Museum of American History. She will share her interest in lowrider cars that young Mexican American men in Phoenix would drive. These men would clash with law enforcement and advocate for Hispanic civil rights. Esparza will discuss how the lifestyle that came with these vehicles relates to food.

1300 Constitution Ave. NW, between 12th and 14th streets. Noon to 1 p.m. Free.

Sunday, Sept. 18: Latinx Caribbean Heritage Panel – Dahlma Llanos-Figueroa and Carmen Rita Wong

Listen to a panel of Latin Caribbean authors in an intimate conversation about their heritage, culture and upbringing at Politics and Prose Bookstore near Chevy Chase. The event will spotlight two distinguished writers, Dahlma Llanos-Figueroa and Carmen Rita Wong, who will discuss their shared Caribbean heritage. The panel will explore what it means to be a Hispanic female professional using literature as a form of cultural expression, both as a writer and a professor.

5015 Connecticut Ave. NW. 3 p.m. Free, first come, first served.

Friday, Sept. 23: Screening of La Manpleza: An Uprising Remembered

Watch a film about the 1991 protests that took place in D.C. after the police shooting of Salvadoran local Daniel Gomez at Art All Night – the District's annual arts festival. "La Manpleza" honors the lesser-known stories of police brutality that have impacted Hispanic victims. The film preserves the Salvadoran community's experiences during the protests and highlights their contribution to social change. Hear testimony, song and poetry from activists and advocates, who capture the adversity that racial minorities face in D.C. as you watch the film in the same neighborhood where the uprising took place.

Address not yet available. Mount Pleasant. Free.



JORDAN YEE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
The bike ride shut down 20 miles of streets to unite bikers of all experience levels around the opportunity to get active, enjoy the outdoors and explore D.C.

Cycling community pedals through scenic course at DC Bike Ride

ANNIE O'BRIEN
STAFF WRITER

Throng of cyclists descended upon the streets of D.C. Saturday for the District's sixth annual DC Bike Ride, breezing past quintessential landmarks along the National Mall and Potomac River.

The only organized bike ride sectioned off from city traffic in D.C. shut down 20 miles of streets – running along the Potomac River before passing campus via E Street and finishing near Capitol Hill – to unite bikers of all experience levels with a chance to get active, enjoy the outdoors and explore D.C. The event raised \$50,000 from participant donations for nonprofit Dreaming Out Loud to fund its initiatives combatting food insecurity, Danielle Berman, DC Bike Ride's events and partnerships coordinator, said.

DC Bike Ride spokesperson Kimber Westphall said about 9,000 riders joined the event in total.

"This is a bike ride for all," Berman said. "Whether you love biking and you compete and you ride all the year round, or you've never picked up a bike before, this is for you."

As the event expanded over the years, Berman said the event's route has incorporated live music near the finish line, more sightseeing landmarks – like the Jefferson Memorial and the Arlington National Cemetery – and even entertainment, like a pit stop at Shake Shack.

Cyclists, pedestrians and astute eyes alike have

criticized the District for failing to prevent soaring traffic deaths – like one near campus over the summer – which have increased every year since 2015 and reached a 14-year high of 40 in 2021. Berman said she hopes the event offers a secure opportunity for cyclists to enjoy a ride, away from any risk that D.C. traffic may pose.

"We hope it means for the D.C. cycling community that cycling can become safer for D.C.," Berman reflected. "It's more accessible, hopefully, and that we can actually bring people together from all different parts of D.C. to make a big cycling community."

Cyclists whizzed by the Lincoln Memorial, Washington Monument and the Capitol Building along the route, which hugged the National Mall, Potomac River and Capitol Hill.

Cyclists at the event could give back to the community with donations combatting food insecurity through Dreaming Out Loud – which works to create an equitable, healthy food system for marginalized communities in the D.C. area. Berman said DC Bike Ride has donated about \$170,000 to charities like the Wounded Warriors Project and the Washington Area Bicycle Association in its six-year history through rider donations.

"We love having them as partners," Berman explains. "Every year, there's a community component. And that's a huge part of why we continue to do what we do."

Kelvin Gordespe, a New

York native who has lived in D.C. for the past decade, said he participated because of his love of cycling, the crowd of participants and traffic-free roadways. He has biked to work the entire time he's lived in the District, which he views as a better alternative to driving.

Addie Rosaldo, a fourth grader from Alexandria, rode the 20-mile course with her parents.

"We just got her a bigger bike a year or two ago, and now she can ride up and down these hills and do the whole 20 miles with us," her mother, Debbie Rosaldo, said at the event.

Pansy Walker, who attended with a large group of friends, said they participated in the 2021 DC Bike Ride and hope to again next year.

"Cycling especially brings people together from different parts of the country," Walker reflected. "We have something common that people like to do together."

Through the hugging and cheers along the course from the very start to the finish line, DC Bike Ride was a diverse, feel-good party all around. Whether the cyclists participated by a rented bike from their parents' garage or the finest model on the market, everyone rode as one.

"So that's really the goal, right," Berman, of DC Bike Ride, said. "It's to get people more excited about biking, to bring people to biking that maybe never would have gotten there in the first place."

Tigerella meshes flavors as Western Market's newest restaurant, cafe

MADHVI KHIANRA
REPORTER

At two seemingly disjointed Western Market eateries, the scent of fresh coffee beans wafts from a cafe counter, while the sounds of clinking cutlery echo from the Italian restaurant next door.

The self-described "Italian-ish" Tigerella blends quick breakfast with a sit-down lunch and dinner menu between two neighboring joins in Western Market after they opened in late July and early August. The two-sided establishment serves up creative and classic coffee drinks, baked goods, salads and sandwiches in the cafe portion alongside a somewhat casual yet tasteful setting if you're looking to kick up your dining atmosphere at the sit-down restaurant.

Tigerella takes inspiration from classic Italian coffee, pizza, pastas and baked goods to make for a fresh menu with lots of traditional Italian flavors. I tried out the spot's best dishes, so be sure to give these orders a try next time you're in Western Market.

Sun-drenched and coffee-scented, the cafe is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and offers a variety of espresso and drip coffee drinks along with pastries, breakfast items, salads and sandwiches. The cafe feels like the ideal late-morning spot – open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., including weekend hours coming in the near future – with the likes of Kali Uchis, The Internet and Steve Lacy

playing over the sound of grinding coffee beans.

The espresso drinks are a must-try. Beans sourced from Pause Coffee are brewed into classic drinks, like the iced Americano (small \$3.5/large \$4), which I would dare to call the most well crafted of its kind in Foggy Bottom. This drink highlights the natural sweetness of the coffee along with a hint of acidity, leaving you pleasantly refreshed, caffeinated and ready for the day.

Their breakfast sandwich (\$9) – a rolled cheddar omelet in a potato bun – stands out as their signature sandwich, served alongside a mild house-made hot sauce. The bun, baked fresh every morning, melts in your mouth as the cheese omelet takes center stage. Cooked to perfection, the omelet is fluffy and doesn't feel too heavy, so it works as a light grab-and-go breakfast on the way to class.

In the adjacent space next door, the eclectic sit-down restaurant and bar portion of Tigerella opens for lunch and dinner from 12 to 9 p.m.

An intimate setting surrounds a bar with dim, low-hanging pendant lights and exposed brick walls.

Guests can also sit at an indoor courtyard-style dining area with larger tables, where sun streams in through the skylights, almost as if you're eating at a classic Italian plaza.

Toeing the line between classic and contemporary, the all-day sit-down dining menu contrasts the typical breakfast options found at the cafe. Boasting original

dishes like a vegetable rigatoni (\$21), daily house-baked sourdough and butter (\$5) and a pickle pie pizza (\$14) – made with garlic cream, giardiniera and pattypan squash – the restaurant portion brings a chic lunch and dining experience to GW's campus.

The menu features five small-plate, appetizer-style dishes, the ideal first order for the table. Tigerella's devilishly summery tomato & peaches salad (\$13), serves as a stellar opener to lunch this summer. Dressed generously with olive oil, basil and tangy flakes of pecorino romano, the heirloom tomatoes and ripe peaches are sweet, refreshing and light, paying homage to classic summer flavors.

The salad complemented the summer vegetable tartine (\$14) to match the similar sweet and savory combination elicited from the zesty salad.

This order features rich and sweet eggplant puree spread thick over a slice of sourdough and whipped ricotta piped over top along with roasted peppers, basil and a bright, zesty gremolata – an Italian green sauce. The brightness from the red pepper alongside the richer taste of the eggplant crafted the optimal balance of opulent and fresh flavors.

From espresso to summer salads, Tigerella offers a classically inspired breakfast, lunch and dinner that transition your taste buds seamlessly from summer to fall, so be sure to stop by while the peaches are ripe and nasturtiums are in bloom.



KRISHNA RAJPARA | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR
The cafe portion of Tigerella serves up elevated grab-and-go items, while the sit-down restaurant side presents a somewhat casual, yet tasteful date-worthy setting.

Sports

GAMES OF THE WEEK



VOLLEYBALL
vs. Coppin State
Tuesday | 6 p.m. EDT
The Colonials welcome the Eagles to the Smith Center as they look to collect their second home victory.



WOMEN'S SOCCER
vs. George Mason
Thursday | 3 p.m. EDT
GW takes on the Patriots at home in hopes of nabbing a win in their first conference game.

NUMBER CRUNCH **11.3**

Women's volleyball's kills per set this season, slightly up from their five-year average of 11.1.

Volleyball looks to turn around program under new leadership

NURIA DIAZ
SPORTS EDITOR

After stumbling into the fall with a losing streak on the heels of a two-win season, volleyball has gotten back on track with three wins in its last five matches as new Head Coach Katie Reifert aims to revamp the program.

After a dry, two-win season last year, GW (3-6) lost its first four matches to start the 2022 season before turning a corner at the Bucknell Invitational where they won their first two matches of the season. The Colonials have won nine out of 27 sets and have been shut out in two of their last three matches. Despite the underwhelming start, Head Coach Katie Reifert said their Friday match against Rider, where the team won 3-2, was a confidence booster for the team.

"I think this was a huge confidence builder for us, just understanding that they played really confidently in our front row and back row together," Reifert said in a post-game interview Friday. "Our front row, it just comes back to doing our jobs, our front row could do their job sufficiently because they knew they had the backdrop behind them."

The squad has averaged just 11.3 kills per set at a .138 clip but has committed 211 attack errors in the first eight matches, a vast increase from last season's 98 errors due to a lack of uniformity within the team. The Colonials have accumulated

495 points and 341 assists overall, while their opponents have racked up 544 points and 373 assists.

Reifert, who is taking on her first season as head coach, said the team needs to improve their defense and increase their hitting potential to clean up its movement on the court and decrease the number errors, which will also allow them to be more confident as a unit.

In four of their first matches, the Colonials came out hot but faltered later in the sets as they struggled to overcome their opponent's defensive front. The squad has struggled on the receiving end of serves thus far, resulting in 62 reception errors. Reifert said the team needs to maintain a steady play to keep all players restricted to their own roles instead of "taking on too much."

"Our hitters could go up and swing aggressively because they knew they had their defense behind them," Reifert said. "So it was a little shaky, but we're going to clean that up."

Graduate student middle blocker Tierra Porter has become an integral piece in the team's middle as she leads the attacking play with 47 kills and a .214 attacking percentage. Reifert said Porter became the playmaker of Friday evening, as she pushed the team to rely on each other.

Despite the rocky start, there have been some bright spots. Junior opposite Liv Womble holds a team-leading 105 kills, five assists and



FILE PHOTO BY JORDYN BAILER | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR
After a dry, two-win season last year, GW dropped its first four games to start the 2022 season before turning a corner at the Bucknell Invitational where they won their first two matches of the season.

123 points this season, followed by junior outside hitter Elizabeth Drelling who totals 104 points, 97 kills and three assists. Due to Womble's impressive showing, GW named her student athlete of the week on Sept. 6.

Among the freshmen, setter Dilara Elmacioglu has led with 91 assists, three kills and a .100 attacking percentage. Playing in all eight games this season, Elmacioglu has shown potential with the GW team as she has helped upperclass

players find their footing on the court with her assists.

Reifert said she looks forward to continuing playing at the Smith Center and seeing students support the team as it looks to enter the A-10 schedule.

Volleyball captures a victory after losing first home match

LUKE WIENECKE
STAFF WRITER

The Colonials split a doubleheader hosted at the Smith Center Friday, securing their first home victory in a pair of matches against Binghamton and Rider.

The Colonials (3-6) entered the day with a two-match winning streak after overtaking Long Island University and NJIT in Pennsylvania taking the two matches with 3-2 and 3-0, respectively. The GW team is currently totaling 373 kills, 33 aces and 341 assists after nine matches.

The GW team began the first match of the day with a powerless defensive effort as they were unable to overcome the Binghamton team, failing to win any set during the match. The Colonials gained their footing during the second match, where they were able to win three of the four sets played against the Rider team, improving their offensive play to outshoot their opponent.

Here's a recap of the two matches:

Match 1

GW fell to Binghamton in straight sets in its first match of the doubleheader. The Bearcats maintained control throughout the match, grabbing early leads and forcing GW to try and claw their way back.

In the first set, Binghamton jumped to a 10-3 lead fueled by an aggressive offensive attack, and both sides traded points before Binghamton went on

an 8-6 run and built their biggest lead of the set at 18-9, led by freshman opposite hitter Giulia Bonifacio. The GW defense locked up soon after as the offense pulled to within four, led by two kills from junior opposite Liv Womble.

Binghamton closed it out in what would be the tightest victory of the match at 25-20. The Bearcats notched 15 kills in the set compared to the Colonials' 13, while maintaining an attack percentage of .324 against GW's .216.

The second set was tighter early on and knotted up at eight following a four-point GW run with senior middle blocker Addie Feek serving. Mid set, GW's defense faltered around the net as the Bearcats' offense regained its footing and took a lead they wouldn't lose, taking the second set 25-16.

The third set was the most dominant for Binghamton, as the Bearcats snatched it 25-14 and closed out the match. GW did their best to keep it close early, but a mid match, 8-3 run by the Bearcats put the match on ice.

Match 2

The second matchup of the day came against the Rider University Broncos who fought the Colonials in a tightly contested match that stretched all the way to five sets.

The first set was tight, and neither squad led by more than four points. GW got the scoring started after Rider sent one soaring out of bounds, jumping to a 3-0 start. Womble showcased

her craftiness early, faking a spike and tapping it over the net to regain the lead at 5-4.

GW narrowly held the lead throughout though, never extending beyond four points. Rider racked up 13 kills to GW's 11 but could not capitalize near the end of the set, finally handing GW their 25th point after an errant serve.

The third set continued the night's back-and-forth theme as both teams looked to overtake the court but were ultimately unable to finalize the scoring run. The Colonials held a mid-set lead of 14-6, the largest of the night before Rider mounted a 7-1 run to pull it within three. The Colonials anchored around the middle all night with graduate middle blocker Tierra Porter, who managed to block many Rider's spikes, meeting them at the net repeatedly.

GW closed out the third set narrowly, 25-22, after a battle of blocks at the net that Porter led. The Broncos took the fourth set 25-17 in the largest margin of victory of the night and tied up the match 2-2. The lead went back and forth until Rider began to build a lead they would go on to hold, accumulating 13 kills to the Colonials' nine.

The fifth and final set led GW to build an early 7-1 lead that Womble led. She guided the match in kills with 13, but the final point came on a block from Feek, which sealed the victory for GW.

The team's first home win drew massive enthusiasm on the court and in the stands.



FILE PHOTO BY AUDEN YURMAN | SENIOR PHOTO EDITOR
GW's offense is off to a much hotter start than last season, on pace to shatter its previous 18-goal total with 12 already on the books and 14 games left to go.

Men's soccer races back from deficit in late-game push to tie Navy

NURIA DIAZ
SPORTS EDITOR

Men's soccer tied its second match of the season after struggling to keep the Navy attack at bay in a 3-3 game in Annapolis on Friday.

The Colonials (2-1-2) failed to maintain a strong defensive line under the weight of three goals by the Midshipmen (1-2-2) but ramped up their offense near the end of the second half to even the score before time expired. The Navy team dominated ball possession during the first half of the match as they fired at the net but to no avail with senior goalkeeper Justin Grady locking up in front of the net.

Firing shots on goal at a .357 clip, the Colonials finished with a .214 shooting percentage, an improvement in their offensive output compared to the .064 average in their last game against Mount St. Mary's. GW's offense is off to a much hotter start than last season, on pace to shatter last season's 18-goal total with 12 already on the books and 14 games left to go.

The first attack of the game came in the third minute with a left-side shot from freshman forward Andrew Schug for the Navy team that failed to enter the net. The Colonials responded, moving the ball into the Midshipmen's zone with a corner kick but failed to finish the shot on goal.

The offense gained

steam after two Navy substitutions paved the way for junior defender Zach Wagner to score with a loose ball on the volley to gain the first goal for the Midshipmen. Navy held the upper hand after halting a pair of shots on goal from freshman forward Alex Nicholson and senior midfielder Tom Cooklin.

The GW team tied the game in the 29th minute when a corner kick by Cooklin fed the ball to junior defender Aaron Kronenberg at the far post, who promptly knotted the game at 1-1.

The final minutes of the game led to six combined substitutions from both teams that rallied momentum for the Navy team with a corner shot that led freshman forward A.J. Schuetz to shoot and miss.

The Midshipmen took the lead with their second goal of the evening two minutes into the second half of the game as junior midfielder David Jackson scored from just outside the box. The Navy team followed up with two unsuccessful shots on goal by junior forward Baba Kallie and sophomore midfielder Noah Ward.

The Colonials gained possession, setting up Kronenberg to shoot from the top right and skip it just past the top of the right post. Navy responded with a corner kick at the 58-minute mark, where senior midfielder Sam Kriel scored from just inside the box, making it a 3-1 lead for the Navy

team. After replacing senior midfielder Rooe Tenne, senior midfielder Elias Norris collected a nifty feed from senior midfielder Tiago Carvalho in the 65th minute and connected inside the net, cutting the Navy lead to 3-2 and pulling the Colonials into striking distance.

GW made the most of their offensive maneuvers during the 83rd minute with a long run from Cooklin who dished it to junior midfielder Carter Humm. With a flashy play in the clutch, Humm backheeled the ball past the goal's far post and into the net to tie the match 3-3.

The goal was the first of his 28-game GW career. The Colonials had one more shot to score in the final minute of the second half for a chance to win after earning a penalty on a Midshipmen handball, but Navy goalkeeper Pierce Holbrook blocked a kick from Cooklin.

GW put on a lively offensive performance on the field but lacked the tight defensive organization needed to keep Navy from entering the box and scoring. A strong effort by the Midshipmen's goalkeeper kept the Colonials unsteady as they failed to capitalize on multiple scoring opportunities.

The Colonials head 100 miles to the northeast to play non-conference rival Delaware Tuesday, with kickoff scheduled for 7 p.m.



FILE PHOTO BY JORDYN BAILER | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR
The Colonials split a doubleheader hosted at the Smith Center Friday, securing their first home victory in the pair of matches against Binghamton and Rider.