

The GW Hatchet

Opinions

The editorial board argues GW should better support students during renovations at the Lerner Health and Wellness Center. **Page 4**

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Tracking COVID-19 September 8 - September 14 **Weekly COVID-19 cases: 103** **Weekly positivity rate: 8.81%** **Change in cases since previous week: -103**

GW systems deadname transgender, nonbinary students in 'difficult and demeaning' process

IANNE SALVOSA
CONTRIBUTING NEWS EDITOR

TARA SUTER
CONTRIBUTING NEWS EDITOR

When senior Naomi Jones read she made the dean's list in an email from the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences this spring, she couldn't make it past the greeting without feeling "a punch in the gut."

Jones still gets dead-named, or referred to as a former name before transitioning gender or coming out, in some University emails, including the one she received from CCAS in June. Jones posted a tweet expressing her frustration with the University's inability to update her name in its systems before she received an apology from CCAS Associate Dean Rachel Riedner via email about a day later.

Months later, Jones still receives emails deadnaming her – at least three since June, including two from the Division for Student Affairs and one from the Student Health Center.

"I would rather GW not have to apologize," she said in an interview. "It's not as much even about me as much as it seems like this is a trend for other trans students across campus."

Jones is one of four transgender and nonbinary students and alumni who said despite changing personal information to reflect their gender identity within some of GW's record-keeping systems, they were still dead-named in official University communications. Experiencing deadnaming can cause anxiety and stress for a transgender or nonbinary person, taking them back to a period of time before they could fully express themselves as they truly are.

Students said the process of updating personal information within GW's systems like G Suite – which includes GWMail and Google Drive – to reflect their gender identity is disorganized and confus-



RACHEL SCHWARTZ | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

Students said GW lacks clear guidance or support for students who attempt to change their names to reflect their gender identity, only listing a few steps of the many processes on University websites.

ing because they need to update information in multiple systems instead of just one. They said GW lacks clear guidance or support for students who attempt to do so, only listing a few steps for the different processes on official websites like that of the Multicultural Student Services Center.

Students have the option to update their name, pronouns and other gender identity-related personal information through platforms like Banner, Blackboard and Microsoft 365, according to the Office of Diversity, Equity and Community Engagement website. They cannot change their legal name and sex on these platforms without proof of a legal name and sex change on their government-issued photo ID, the website states.

Changing your legal name varies state-to-state and requires individuals to potentially submit dozens of documents and fees before government officials approve the change. After an individual's name is legally updated, they

must notify dozens of agencies like health care providers, banks, utility companies and schools.

Students are required to submit a "chosen name change form" to change their personal information within platforms like Zoom, Handshake and G Suite, according to the ODECE website. But the Multicultural Student Services Center website states students looking to update their name in GWMail must email GW Information Technology.

Jones, who is majoring in archaeology, said even though the GW community was supportive and "respectful" of her transition that started in 2021, she faced challenges updating her personal University records.

"I had to go in and change my name individually with each service, and that didn't guarantee that I would get it right," Jones said.

Jordan West, the associate vice provost for diversity, equity and community engagement, said updates to platforms like Blackboard can occur within a day, and if

students have any questions about the process, they can email ODECE at cnqip@gwu.edu.

"Several members of the GW community, including people who are trans, gender nonconforming and gender nonbinary, utilize the chosen name option to ensure their name and identity are accurately reflected through the University," West said in an email. "Any student who experiences bias based on any aspect of their identity, including gender identity and gender expression, is encouraged to submit a bias incident report on ODECE's website."

Phoebe Shatzer, a graduate student studying security policy, said the disorganization of GW's name change process has revealed the administration's ignorance of transgender students' identities.

"The additional requirements put upon trans students kind of gets frustrating, and it's one thing on top of so many other things that trans students have to deal with," Shatzer said.

Academic priorities fall short for humanities: faculty senators

CAITLIN KITSON
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Faculty senators in the humanities said GW's newly announced academic priorities and financial investments are evidence of an ongoing lack of support for professors, departments and research in their studies.

Officials announced at a Faculty Senate meeting earlier this month that they would adopt new academic priorities, including academic medicine, data science, equity and social justice and sustainability and climate change and invest \$50 million in 14 new, endowed professorships to bolster GW's medical enterprise. Three faculty senators said the new priorities are not unique to GW and officials should focus on improving academics across all schools and departments, not just the STEM-related academics.

Provost Chris Bracey said the planning process for the new priorities included consultation from the Board of Trustees deans, program directors and faculty in all GW's schools and colleges. He said the academic priorities are a starting point for "comprehensive" planning.

The University has remained without a strategic plan since officials announced in 2020 that the COVID-19 pandemic rendered former University President Thomas Leblanc's strategic plan "obsolete." Part of Leblanc's plan included an initiative to cut undergraduate enrollment by 20 percent and increase the share of STEM majors by 30 percent, which drew backlash from humanities professors who said the plan could lead to "major" funding cuts to humanities departments.

"The academic priorities are a starting point for comprehensive planning and are not intended to represent all the areas in which we will focus," Bracey said in an email. "These priorities and many other historic strengths across all disciplines demonstrate our continued commitment to enhancing GW's global reputation"

Faculty senators said officials should bolster the humanities' funding and faculty in the wake of rising enrollment numbers across departments.

Alexa Alice Joubin, a faculty senator and a professor of English, said she met with the three other faculty senators who represent the humanities, after the senate meeting earlier this month to discuss how to raise awareness about their concerns regarding the inequitable support given to the humanities.

"It's not really about the current initiative," she said. "It's because there has been a long-term problem, there's a pattern of not giving enough support to the humanities, even though we constitute the core of GW, the core of Columbian College."

Joubin said it is "problematic" for the University to not distribute resources to its departments equitably because humanities play a key role in advancing GW's academic priority of equity and social justice and faculty's curriculum.

"I believe GW historically has strength in the humanities and a reputation and our unique position in the city," she said. "All of these are areas that the administration can continue to invest in while also supporting other disciplines, so the one-sidedness I think is the trigger."

Katrin Schultheiss, a faculty senator and an associate professor of history, said while she sees the value of bolstering STEM education, the University often leaves the humanities out of the conversation when it discusses its mission to be a "comprehensive" institution that builds strength in a variety of disciplines.

"I do think that I would like to see more highlighting or direct allusions to the value of the humanities in all of these discussions about a comprehensive University," she said.

Schultheiss said the academic priorities are largely in line with the priorities of other higher education institutions and do not reflect a desire to be "outside of the norm" of other higher education institutions.

Heather Bamford, a faculty senator and a professor of Spanish, said the University should prioritize hiring "humanists" in tenure-line positions and provide more opportunities for promotion to current faculty in the humanities.

"These priorities do not include the humanities in any specific and immediately visible way, though there are countless GW humanities faculty who work in these areas and are impacted by them," she said in an email.

Bamford said the University should consider adding an academic priority of "critical thinking," which can apply to all disciplines and work to prioritize the connections between the humanities and the new academic priorities.

"Each semester I witness students make brilliant connections between historical documents and past events, literary works, philosophy, current events and their personal experiences," she said. "This is what I'm here for. None of this is clear in the priorities, but it is happening in and among them."

GW's data privacy principles are too broad to protect students from potential tracking: experts

DANIEL PATRICK GALGANO
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Experts in data and internet privacy said GW community members remain unprotected from potential data privacy breaches under a newly released set of "core principles" that officials rolled out earlier this month.

The principles include commitments from GW to clarify new privacy policy changes, abide by federal and local law, guide how GW will make data privacy decisions and determine how they will gather community members' personal data. Experts in data privacy policy said the new principles lack details on what type of information GW might collect and how it can be used after officials gathered community members' location data from Wi-Fi access points last school year.

Bracey said the University is implementing three data privacy principles to abide by "applicable" personal privacy laws, make data decisions in a transparent environment and clearly communicate officials' new policies going forward. He said the University is still considering implementing new data privacy policies, like bolstering the review and approval process for data collection programs and receiving input from student and faculty leaders on future decision making.



FILE PHOTO BY AUDEN YURMAN | SENIOR PHOTO EDITOR

Interim University President Mark Wrighton said in February that the University stopped last fall's data tracking project and would destroy any remaining stored data.

"Through the careful implementation of these measures, we expect to create a more collaborative and more transparent environment that allows the University to realize the benefits of data analytics

while protecting the privacy interest of our community members," Bracey said at the Faculty Senate meeting earlier this month.

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News

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

CITIZEN BY CNN: POLICIES THAT IMPACT THE MIDTERMS

Wednesday, Sept. 21 | 7 p.m. EDT | Jack Morton Auditorium | Free
Tune into a discussion with CNN journalists on how they think policy will impact the upcoming 2022 midterms.

SOUTH AFRICA IN CRISIS?

Thursday, Sept. 22 | 10 a.m. EDT | Elliott School of International Affairs | Free
Join the GW Institute for African Studies for a discussion on the current state of South Africa and its political and social crises.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

September 17, 1964

Officials created a 13-member presidential search committee, which included Katherine Graham, the president of The Washington Post Company.

'I was just shocked': Congresswoman appears to kick student near U.S. Capitol

HENRY HUVOS
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

After talking to more than 70 members of Congress along with her youth voter advocacy group, freshman Marianna Pecora approached one last U.S. representative outside of the Capitol Building to inquire about gun safety legislation.

Pecora and her colleagues walked with Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, R-Ga., for a little more than a minute, as they asked the far-right congresswoman about her opposition to the legislation. After Greene's staff herded Pecora away from the right side of the congresswoman, Pecora shifted in front of her to ask about her defense of the Second Amendment.

Seconds later, Greene appeared to kick Pecora multiple times.

"The second one was intentional," Pecora said in an interview. "And I was just shocked."

Pecora, who majors in political communication, has been the deputy communications director for the national advocacy organization Voters of Tomorrow since January and spent the majority of last week on Capitol Hill talking to members of Congress about Gen Z engagement and youth rights. Pecora said her group noticed members of the House Freedom Caucus, a right-wing group of representatives including Greene, delivering a press conference Thursday afternoon after Voters of Tomorrow's last meeting of the day.

"We saw the House Freedom Caucus was doing a press conference, and we didn't meet with any of their offices during our meet-

ings," Pecora said. "And so we stopped and waited for them to finish so that we could ask them some questions about the issues that we cared about."

Pecora and several members of Voters of Tomorrow tweeted the video of Greene appearing to kick Pecora later that afternoon, which has amassed more than two million views and more than 7,000 retweets. National publications like the Washington Post and NPR covered the incident, and several Democratic-leaning Twitter users tweeted the video, including gun safety activist David Hogg and Star Trek actor George Takei.

"We were not expecting it to be a national news story," Pecora said. "I'm a little bit overwhelmed, but I'm not a big fan of hers, so I am glad that people are finding out that she's not that good of a person."

Pecora said Greene called her a liar when she asked the congresswoman why she kicked her. Hours after Pecora's tweet, Greene posted the same video Thursday where she insisted that "'gun-free' zones kill people."

"These foolish cowards want the government to take away guns and the rights of parents to defend their children in schools," Greene said in the tweet.

Greene's office has not responded to a request for comment. Her office has denied the apparent kick to NPR despite sharing the video.

Pecora said Voters of Tomorrow is currently working with their counsel to discuss the possibility of pressing charges against Greene and said that if legal action is taken,



RACHEL SCHWARTZ | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

The original video of Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, R-Ga., appearing to kick freshman Marianna Pecora has amassed more than two million views and has been retweeted more than 7,000 times.

it would be taken as a group and not by any individual member.

Pecora said Greene acted "like a child," and she and her group were acting respectfully toward her before the incident. She said she had met with U.S. representatives from both parties earlier in the day, none of whom treated her disrespectfully in the earlier meetings.

"She's a member of Congress," Pecora said. "She should have to hold herself to some sort of stan-

dard. The standard should be above kicking people."

Pecora said she hopes the largest effect of the incident is increased mobilization and energy among potential young voters and advocates.

Pecora said despite the reaction to the video on social media, she didn't want to "glorify" the incident because she felt her organization's work on Capitol Hill was more critical than her interaction with

Greene. She said students looking to advocate should "center on action," and she is proud of her group for the work they did last week.

"We had a team of 16 people running around from Senate office buildings to House office buildings, back and forth," Pecora said. "I really do want to put more attention on the fact that we were there to do important work and not the fact that I happened to get kicked by a congresswoman."

GW ACLU chapter to advocate for human rights, recruit members during first year

SHEA CARLBERG
STAFF WRITER

The American Civil Liberties Union is starting a chapter at GW this fall to protect national civil liberties through student-led advocacy on campus.

Student leaders said they formed the GW-based chapter of the ACLU – a civil rights advocacy organization of legal professionals and volunteers who defend citizens' civil liberties – in May to recruit members and develop a chapter constitution this semester before registering as a student organization in the spring. Members said the chapter will tackle civil rights issues that affect students, like the threat against reproductive rights after the reversal of *Roe v. Wade*, which inspired their interest to join ACLU-GW and increase advocacy on campus.

Senior Gabriella Lehrman, ACLU-GW's founder and co-president, said the group is planning to organize social events, like a ticketed movie night, to fund their organization. She said the group anticipates a fall semester of planning and a spring semester of programming, including reproductive rights protests around D.C. and speaker events with local experts and policymakers addressing topics within "ACLU's focus area," like voting rights, reproductive rights and criminal law reform.

"I'm just hoping that we can have a group of people with similar interests who just feel really comfortable to be able to get involved in D.C. and on campus and just feel like whatever they want to happen can happen, that there's a space for them," Lehrman said. "Since I'm a senior, freshman year I didn't have a ton of people to go to protests with."

Lehrman said the chapter will distill the national ACLU priorities, including criminal justice reform and reproductive rights protections, into a GW charter that creates a space for stu-

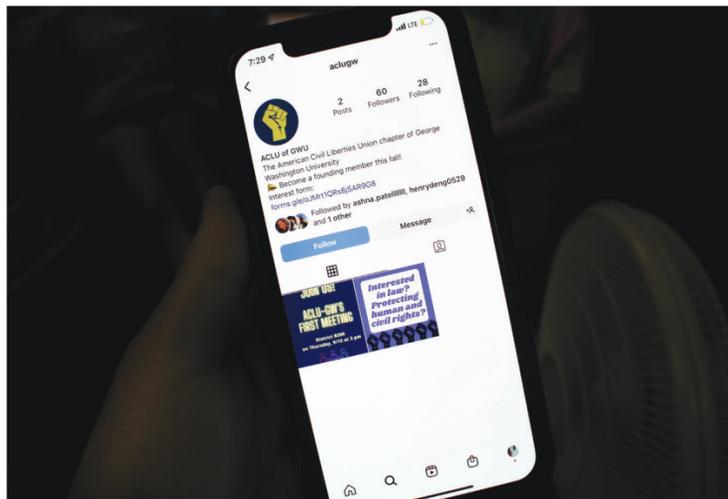


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY KRISHNA RAJPARA | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR
Student leaders said ACLU-GW is seeking to establish a list of consistent members and create a chapter constitution during the fall.

dents to push for civil liberties. She said members plan to hold ACLU's Know Your Rights training, which addressed common civil rights violations through instructional pamphlets and videos showing real-life scenarios, and criminal law reform training to get members acclimated with the chapter's values and goals.

"I think the perfect part about the ACLU is that we are able to focus on national-level issues, D.C.-level issues and also campus-related issues," Lehrman said.

Lehrman said the D.C. chapter of the ACLU has worked to build more student-led chapters in the city through outreach to students and monthly meetings to discuss funding and training for civil rights-related action.

"They definitely have a plan of what they want this to look like," Lehrman said. "And obviously they are kind of the professional on the trainings."

Lehrman said before she and her co-

president graduate, they are looking for freshmen and sophomores to maintain the organization in future years and assume leadership roles, like programming chair and secretary. She said she is open to collaborating with Georgetown University's ACLU chapter and plans on reaching out once ACLU-GW is an established organization.

Shira Silberman, a junior and the co-founder of ACLU-GW, said the new chapter will act as a "branch" of ACLU and aim to recruit new members, especially freshmen, through social media accounts.

She said most of the chapter's members are women so far, so abortion and reproductive rights are some of the most major focuses for future programming.

"We're hoping to build a strong foundation, especially now in the time when there's a lot of attacks, especially on women's rights and minority rights," Silberman said.

CRIME LOG

PUBLIC DRUNKENNESS

526 22nd Street
9/11/2022 – 6:55 a.m.
Closed Case
GW Police Department officers responded to a report of an intoxicated female student. EMeRG responders conducted a medical evaluation and subsequently transported the student to the GW Hospital emergency room for further medical treatment.
Referred to the Division for Student Affairs.

UNLAWFUL ENTRY OF A MOTOR VEHICLE

2000 Block of G Street
9/13/2022 – Unknown
Open Case
A non-GW affiliated male complainant reported that an unknown subject had unlawfully entered his vehicle, removed personal items and left them on the exterior of his vehicle.
Case open.

SIMPLE ASSAULT, THREATS TO DO BODILY HARM

1959 E Street (Subway Restaurant)
9/13/2022 – 1:55 p.m.
Open Case
GWPD officers responded to a report of a dispute and upon arrival, made contact with a female Subway store employee who reported having a verbal altercation with an unknown female subject about her food order. Following the verbal altercation, the subject threw food at the store employee and made threats to do bodily harm. Shortly afterward, the subject went outside to get a rock and threw it at a bystander in the store.
Case open.

TRAFFIC ACCIDENT: HIT AND RUN

600 Block of 23rd Street
9/14/2022 – 11:57 p.m.
Closed Case
GWPD officers responded to a report of a traffic accident. Upon arrival, GWPD made contact with a female GW SafeRide driver that reported a motorcycle hit her vehicle as she was making a legal left turn. Shortly thereafter, the unknown male motorcycle driver fled the scene, and Metropolitan Police Department officers responded to the scene and reported the motorcycle stolen.
Referred to MPD.

— Compiled by Grace Chinowsky

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BSU to channel innovation, artistry of Harlem Renaissance during school year

FAITH WARDWELL
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The Black Student Union's annual theme for the academic year is drawing inspiration from the Harlem Renaissance to replicate the innovation that came from Black artists during a historic period of creativity.

BSU leaders said this year's theme of "Black Renaissance: Innovation Continued" will motivate students to draw inspiration for fresh ideas from creative outlets, like writing or dance. They said the theme centers on the Harlem Renaissance – a period rich in Black cultural and artistic achievements during the 1920s and 1930s – and will feature a showcase of contemporary and archived student art and monthly community service at Martha's Table, a nonprofit that provides food, shelter and education to D.C. families.

BSU President Gianna Cook said students will find an outlet to be their most authentic, creative selves on campus through the new theme that honors a time period when Black creatives felt empowered to influence and "bounce off each other," whether it be through art or questioning the status quo.

She said the title "Innovation Continued" aims to inspire Black excellence on campus following last year's theme of "Elevation Amplified," which worked to elevate Black student voices through relationships with administrators and student events during the first year back on campus since the COVID-19 pandemic. She said BSU hopes to continue to build a Black community on campus that allows students to push boundaries in their day-to-day lives through a steady exchange of ideas in class and in-person social engagement around campus, like at Kogan Plaza.

"We've always been innovative, we've always been striving for this creativity, and it's not starting over," Cook said. "I love that we're also able to bring it to light not only to our community but to other com-

munities in GW as well."

Cook said BSU is currently planning events like a kickball game with American University's BSU chapter on the National Mall later this year and a Thanksgiving dinner with the Undergraduate Black Pre-Law Association and BSU chapters from GW Law and the School of Medicine and Health Sciences. She said she hopes events like these will develop "collaboration" between BSU and other student organizations to amplify a sense of community under the "Black Renaissance" theme.

"I think that as students, we're always working, networking," Cook said. "But how can we connect together and make those meaningful connections through creativity, through ideas, through fellowship and through those recreational activities? So that's what we're really working towards."

Cook said the Black Renaissance theme encourages students to model how Black creatives had their ideas "propelled by everybody around them" to produce formative work and build the courage to create new norms, but she said the theme reaches far beyond music or art. She said she wants students to apply the theme to their own lives this year and feel motivated to think outside of the box and challenge themselves.

"I want them to know that innovation can start with them," Cook said. "And that whether you're a freshman, sophomore, junior, senior, Black or not Black, that you somehow see that there's something valuable that you have to offer the GW community."

Drew Dodd, the executive vice president of BSU, said he is looking forward to BSU's upcoming art showcase during the spring semester as an opportunity to reflect on Black successes on campus among past generations of Black students and those currently attending GW. He said he worked with BSU Historian Ryan Titus to pull archived photographs of past BSU members attending events or sporting their



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY AUDEN YURMAN | SENIOR PHOTO EDITOR
BSU leaders said the theme "Black Renaissance: Innovation Continued" will prompt students to create new norms by using figures from the Harlem Renaissance as inspiration for their work.

style in addition to artwork they created, which inspired this year's theme and will appear in the art showcase.

Dodd said starting last year, he noticed a Black Renaissance that started to take form at GW when his peers began to tap into their own creativity by producing art or showing off their style. He said he hopes to build off this innovation on campus through this year's theme to highlight a time when Black art was appreciated and inspired others to harness creativity.

"Yes, we are talking about the Black Renaissance, and that's a completely separate time in history, but we're also talking about the Black Renaissance at GW and acknowledging the past and building on that with the creatives that we have on campus now," Dodd said.

He said attending a predomi-

nantly white institution can produce obstacles to creative expression for Black students, but he is interested in gaining a glimpse of history through the artistic work dating back to the 1960's that will be presented in the showcase.

Titus said the new theme makes her feel "proud" and "empowered" in her role educating students about the relevance of Black history to their lives. She said she hopes students excel in their own talents by learning from the successes and failures of figures from the Harlem Renaissance like poet Langston Hughes, who inspires her by his ability to show the universality of the Black experience.

"It is up to us to use what we have learned from them and improve ourselves," Titus said in an email.

Telease Bowen, the co-chair of

the annual Black Heritage Celebration, said this year's theme offers students a time to explore their passions and reflect on the creative outlets that appeal to them to spark "Black joy."

"I hope that students take this time to reflect on what makes them happy, joyful and really get back to those things, whether that's knitting or drawing or painting," Bowen said.

Joanna Destil, BSU's vice president of marketing, said she hopes the upcoming year will allow students to serve as inspiration for one another. She said she hopes students recognize that failing is a part of the creative process that the Black Renaissance theme advocates for through its focus on innovation and inventiveness.

"It is okay to fail, and by failing you will succeed," Destil said.

GW Law program adds new courses as part of ongoing expansion

CAITLIN KITSON
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

GW Law will roll out three courses later this academic year as part of an ongoing expansion of a law program providing professionals with expertise in cyber and national security law through new courses and virtual degree options.

Lisa Schenck, who was named the inaugural associate dean of the National Security, Cybersecurity and Foreign Relations Law Program last fall, said officials will roll out the Professional Responsibility and Ethics class this spring, while the Global Privacy Law and Conflict Seminar and Cybersecurity: Risk Management and Incident Response courses are up for approval next semester. She said officials expanded the program through nearly 20 new courses, a master of law degree and a master of studies in law degree, which in recent years have educated professionals on the intersection of cyber and national security law.

Marking a significant increase in courses, Schenck said the program now includes more than 60 courses on "cutting-edge issues" in national security law, like artificial intelligence, compared to 2018 when the law school's national security and cybersecurity specialization only offered 12 courses.

"GW Law has expanded its curricular focus to ensure our courses address both critical government infrastructure cybersecurity as well as data privacy and personal data cybersecurity concerns," Schenck said in an email.

Schenck said the program's master of law degrees allow lawyers to gain expertise in the "highly marketable" fields of cybersecurity or foreign relations law, like information privacy and counterintelligence. She said the program's master of studies in law degrees cater to people who did not attend law school and do not want to become lawyers but have careers that would benefit from expertise in data security.

The program's master of studies in law degree is part of the law school's general master of studies in law program, which launched in fall 2018.



FILE PHOTO BY JACK FONSECA
Schenck said the program's master of law and master of studies in law degrees are both available virtually, so students who work full-time or don't live in D.C. can have equitable access to the program.

"With their MSL and LL.M. degrees, they learn how to protect critical government infrastructure and data through well-drafted government policies and regulatory standards," she said.

Schenck said the program's national security and cybersecurity master of law and master of studies in law degrees are both available virtually, so students who work full-time or don't live in D.C. can still access the program.

She said law school officials expanded the program to include courses that address how cybersecurity issues impact both government infrastructure and everyday people, like the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act course that educates students on the issues of balancing national security interests and the privacy rights of U.S. citizens.

"Growing vulnerabilities from physical and cyber

threats and the world's increased connectivity through the use of modern technology and cyberspace have created the need for expanded study into cybersecurity law and regulation that protects our critical cyber infrastructure," she said.

Lindsay Rodman, a visiting associate professor of law and a fellow with the National Security, Cybersecurity and Foreign Relations Law Program, said law school officials expanded the program over the past four years in response to the rise in the number of professionals who are "clamoring" for programs that can advance their legal literacy.

"There's just been a real growth among professionals, in particular, trying to better themselves, improve their credentials, come back to academia and benefit from the knowledge that's being produced within the institution," she said.

Rodman said the program's location in D.C. provides students with connections to alumni from the law school and adjunct faculty members who are deeply involved in national security-related work.

"The adjunct faculty are the people who are doing this work day in and day out, and then they come and teach GW Law students what today's issues are," she said. Rodman said many current national security issues – like foreign cyber attacks – are "novel" because they are constantly evolving.

"Lawyers historically have made the law more complicated in order to maintain our monopoly on the ability to practice law and understand it, and that doesn't actually serve us, the public, other people, very well," she said. "Better legal literacy across the country and practitioners in every field is better for everyone."

GW should disclose data practices: experts

From Page 1

"Through the careful implementation of these measures, we expect to create a more collaborative and more transparent environment that allows the University to realize the benefits of data analytics while protecting the privacy interest of our community members," Bracey said at the Faculty Senate meeting earlier this month.

Experts in data and internet privacy said the core principles are too broad and don't paint a clear picture of how information from other potential data collection efforts will be approved, conducted and used going forward.

Ella Shenhav – an information privacy specialist and a partner at Shutts and Bowen, a nationally accredited law firm – said she would have expected the University to have developed stricter procedures for justifying data collection efforts roughly a year after the data collection project. She said creating private data privacy policies often takes a few months to a year, so she is surprised that officials only presented three general principles by now.

"It wouldn't surprise me that it would take some time, but having said that at the same time, this pilot started in the fall of 2021, so we're looking at about a year now," she said. "A year is definitely sufficient to develop those kinds of policies and procedures."

Shenhav said her "main concern" about the core principles is that they don't specify what type of data the University would want to collect for students, like geolocation and video information, or how they would use and store it. She said the University could divulge more information about the purpose of the original data tracking project and what they planned to do with the data they collected last fall.

"I'm curious if the school would be willing to be more transparent because they are talking about being transparent if they're willing in their transparency efforts to actually disclose all the types of information that were collected," she said.

Officials declined in February to say which administrators approved and managed the project and why it took them more than a month to inform community members about the project.

Rebecca Herold – the chief executive officer of Privacy and Security Brainiacs, an Iowa-based personal privacy and health care consulting firm – said GW's website privacy notice, which outlines how officials collect certain University data, is "pretty old" compared to other companies. The notice was last updated in September 2020 and currently includes policies on how GW collects and shares data internally and with third-party platforms.

She said officials should update the University's privacy notices, especially because they are reviewing their data privacy policy-making processes.

"That sounds good, that's a very good thing to communicate, but there's certainly no details provided within what they said in that statement," she said.

Herold said GW should bring in an outside consultant or expert to review and assess the University's privacy policies and produce an independent risk assessment.

"If they really wanted to demonstrate that what they did is effective, having an objective, third-party expert look at that would be something that would support that," she said.

Herold said officials should also specify which of their services – like apps, smart TVs and surveillance cameras – are tracking and storing data about community members' movement on and off campus. She said specifying how GW monitors students, faculty and staff would help the University abide by its commitment to be transparent about data privacy rules.

"I would hope that the policies and associated procedures are not narrowly focused on only one type of surveillance that was discovered and people were concerned with, which certainly needs to be a part of what's covered," she said. "But hopefully it covers the wide range of surveillance possibilities that are becoming very common on college campuses."

TWEETED

I am still having trouble believing it, but @RepMTG kicked me.

Marianna Pecora on 9/15/2022
TWITTER/@MARIANNAPECORA

Opinions

FROM GWHATCHET.COM/OPINIONS

“The reality is that I’ve come face to face with the stereotype that people from the South are not as educated, progressive or intelligent as their fellow citizens during my time at GW.”

—MARYN LARSEN on 9/15/2022

GW leaves students hanging with meager alternatives during Lerner’s closure STAFF EDITORIAL

As the Lerner Health and Wellness Center enters its fourth month of renovations, students interested in keeping up their physical health must choose between using GW’s makeshift fitness facilities or pricey, off-campus gyms. With Lerner out of commission until midfall, GW ought to flex its institutional muscles to make sure students can access the equipment and facilities they need instead of leaving them with meager alternatives.

Although the closure allows officials to update Lerner’s equipment, redesign its layout and upgrade the building’s HVAC system, it has eliminated access to the building’s pool, gym, courts and work-out equipment since May and displaced student activities, like club sports and intramural teams. With Lerner closed, campus recreation staff have compiled a variety of ways to stay active – students can exercise in a workout room in the University Student Center or at the West Hall fitness center on the Mount Vernon Campus, walk or run around Foggy Bottom or pay to use local gyms. There’s also “Lerner on Demand,” a series of instructional workout videos on YouTube.

These solutions may sound good in theory, but they fall flat in practice. Students looking for free, on-campus facilities can use the student center workout room, but it only has a handful of free weights, yoga mats, training balls, self-powered rowing machines and upright bikes. The West Hall fitness center offers more space and specialized equipment, but its limited and irregular hours, combined with the trek to the Mount Vernon Campus, hardly make it an appealing option for many students.

Walking or running around D.C. may provide an alternative to treadmill cardio but can’t replace strength training or a specialized workout routine in a dedicated

space like Lerner. The time and money it takes to travel across town on the Metro, a bike, scooter or ride-share still means there’s a price tag attached to nominally free public courts and pools.

GW’s facilities and no- or low-

cost alternatives aren’t meeting the needs of amateur athletes and fitness fanatics alike. They leave students in the position of paying out-of-pocket for memberships at local gyms, where costs can add up quickly, even with student dis-

counts that knock a few dollars off a monthly membership.

If the student center and West Hall can’t offer the equipment that Lerner did, then private gyms can’t compete on price. Though in dire need of repair with its broken

equipment and poor temperature control, Lerner offered a huge variety of equipment and activities at absolutely no charge. A reopened, reinvigorated Lerner can get back to supporting students, and we’re excited to see what officials do with the space.

But the promise of a new-and-improved Lerner in the future hasn’t helped students find alternatives to their usual workout routines in the present. If officials knew they would close Lerner for part of 2022 as early as last November, they could surely have developed a better plan to support students.

Bringing in more equipment to the student center, especially for strength training, would make these gyms more functional and more appealing. While partnering with local gyms to reduce the costs of students’ memberships may be a brief financial burden for the University, it would ensure students could access the facilities they need and spare the University from creating gyms out of thin air.

And when Lerner does reopen, students deserve to be able to make up for lost time. To officials’ credit, the workout room in the student center is open from 7 a.m. to midnight seven days a week. Applying those same extended hours to Lerner would allow students to make better use of the building’s facilities even as they juggle busy work and class schedules. And for the student employees who help run Lerner on a day-to-day basis, its smooth operation is key to their financial well-being.

Lerner is part of students’ lives. Whether they’re building up their stamina or creating bonds, Lerner is a source of community – and that’s something that students’ current fitness options can’t replicate. So while the renovations continue, GW should support students’ workouts, not sell them workarounds.



JENNA BAER | CARTOONIST

Instead of paving over paradise, let’s build cities that put people first

Are cities for cars or people? That question underlies the better part of a century of urban planning in the United States, and since the 1950s, cars have largely won out. Ribbons of asphalt and concrete slice and dice their way through D.C., prioritizing commuters and their cars while making residents second-class citizens in their own communities. At a moment when the need to create a more environmentally, economically and racially just world is as apparent as ever, let’s flip the script and put people first.

Ethan Benn
Opinions Editor

Urban planning is about allocating space for the different goods and services that people need – a hospital or grocery store here, an office or factory there. But to paraphrase 1960s folk singer Joni Mitchell, we’ve all too frequently paved paradise to put up a parking lot. But which paradise do we decide to pave? Whose homes, businesses and communities are swept away for parking lots, freeways and interchanges?

In 1955, the U.S. Bureau of Public Roads published its “Yellow Book,” a literal roadmap to connect the nation with highways. Among other designs for what would become the Capital Beltway and the Anacostia and Southwest-Southeast freeways, the

Yellow Book envisioned a downtown loop running through the heart of D.C. In the 1960s, both the “inner loop” and the spurs that would have connected it to the “outer loop” earned the ire of grassroots activists whose neighborhoods and livelihoods, from Georgetown to Brookland, were on the line. The plan would have razed a historic Quaker meeting house in Dupont Circle, leveled U-Street and destroyed innumerable homes and businesses, forever changing the D.C. we know today.

Highways might seem politically neutral, but it was auto-obsessed southern conservatives in Congress who pushed for highways in the then majority-Black and still politically underrepresented D.C. Nor is it a coincidence that the city’s wealthier residents west of Rock Creek Park escaped the worst of the highway construction while those east of the Anacostia River faced the brunt of it.

The issue isn’t just highways, though – car-related air pollution on highways and busy roads in Wards 5, 7 and 8 is prematurely and disproportionately killing residents who are poorer, less educated or people of color. Those same three wards account for more than half of this year’s 24 traffic fatalities.

Fortunately, not everyone is convinced that the future rides on four wheels – the fight to reclaim

space from cars is playing out across D.C. right now. The National Park Service closed Upper Beach Drive, a two-lane, tree-lined parkway that runs through Rock Creek Park, to vehicular traffic at the beginning of the pandemic. But NPS has plans – pending a final decision – to seasonally reopen Rock Creek Park, turning serene public space back into the morning drive outside of the summer months.

Upper Beach Drive demonstrates that federal officials still have power over urban planning in D.C., but there’s plenty that the city can do on its own. When the designed but yet-to-be-built 11th Street Bridge Park reaches completion, it’ll connect residents of Anacostia to Navy Yard with bike paths, footpaths and outdoor recreation space. And with ambition and federal funding, city officials could tear down some freeways entirely.

We don’t have to imagine a less car-dependent future – we already have tantalizing glimpses of one.

Let’s return to where we started – are cities for cars or people? We can leave urban space in the hands of two tons of steel and rubber like we’ve done for the past 70 years, or we can claim the city for ourselves. I prefer the latter – we can, we will and we must ensure that cities are for people.

—Ethan Benn, a junior majoring in journalism and communication, is the opinions editor.

GW must enforce ban on single-use plastics across campus vendors

It’s 11 a.m., and students check the clock as they anxiously await their order at GW Deli, hoping it’ll be ready in time for their lecture in 10 minutes. Many will mindlessly grab a plastic water bottle before racing to class, and luckily for them, Deli has plenty for sale. But those bottles won’t be recycled. Instead, they’ll spend the next 450 years decomposing in landfills, oceans or roadsides, producing chemical pollution and poisoning wildlife. GW has a plan to eliminate single-use plastics, but their presence on campus proves vendors and the University aren’t committed to sustainability.

Grace Erwin
Opinions Writer

After gaining popularity in the United States in the 1950s as a way to make life more convenient, single-use plastics have done anything but. GW still allowing members of the University community to buy and sell these products exemplifies their performative activism, and their failure to enforce their own policies will cause more harm to a planet that’s already experiencing increasing temperatures, extreme droughts and rising sea levels.

GW’s original plan seemed promising – the University would eliminate single-use plastics in the community to do its part to help the environment. And during the 2021-22

school year, I noticed that nearly every restaurant on campus took the step to completely replace its plastic straws with either paper or compostable ones made with the plant-based polylactic plastic. A few vendors, like Carvings, replaced their plastic water bottles with “Just Water” – a brand that uses recyclable materials and produces 74 percent fewer carbon emissions than their traditional plastic counterparts, according to their website.

But this initial push for sustainability hasn’t led to transformative change. The shift to more environmentally-friendly straws was a great start, but it was just a start. Many businesses like &pizza, GW Deli and more continue to sell plastic water bottles and soda bottles each day.

The fault is not entirely on these GWorld vendors, 10 of whom told The Hatchet last September that officials never informed them of its new plastic policy. If officials truly cared about their new approach to single-use plastics, they should have taken the time to explain their policy to establishments that accept GWorld.

Some on-campus establishments, such as Panera and Starbucks, likely aren’t as able to make individual decisions about the removal of single-use plastics since they’re part of national chains. But that doesn’t mean GW lacks the power to decide which materials individual

businesses use. Many of the vendors violating the policies are operating on University property in places like District House. Due to its location and authority over GW Dining, the administration can surely require establishments to follow official policies and regulations, check what materials they are using and require the replacement of any single-use plastics.

There’s been little action despite officials’ promises to address the persistence of single-use plastics at GWorld vendors. Many students care deeply about sustainability, and GW’s lack of interest in enforcing its own environmental protection policies is both disheartening and frustrating. After the publication in June 2021 of a detailed, 15-page guide to make GW a more sustainable place, we expected commitment and responsibility from officials.

As we move further into the 2022-23 school year, officials need to approach single-use plastics like a ticking time bomb. Amid global climate change, our environment faces irreparable damage each time single-use plastics sold at GW end up in the trash. The time to truly commit to sustainability is now – removing single-use plastics would be a win for our community and our climate.

—Grace Erwin, a sophomore majoring in journalism and mass communication, is an opinions writer.

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Submit to opinions@gwhatchet.com

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Culture

THE SCENE

PEACE DAY OPEN HOUSE
Wednesday, Sept. 21 | United States Institute of Peace | Free
Celebrate the International Day of Peace with guided tours and informational exhibits.

DC FASHION WEEK
Thursday, Sept. 22 to Sept 25 | Various venues | \$85-160
Take in the cutting-edge fashion of the coming spring and summer couture collections at the 37th International Couture Collections Show.

RELEASED THIS WEEK:

NEW SINGLE: "TALKING TO YOURSELF" BY CARLY RAE JEPSEN

The Hatchet staff's top cozy, local bookstores to find your next enticing read

GW HATCHET STAFF

Swap out your assigned academic reading for a new or used book to snuggle up with in the evening.

Whether you're looking to emulate an autumnal, Rory Gilmore aesthetic or simply desire a new endeavor to add to your reading list, a trip to one of D.C.'s local bookstores should be a top priority. From Adams Morgan to Capitol Hill, here are some of the GW Hatchet staff's top recommendations for homey bookstores to browse after class.

Bridge Street Books Caitlin Kitson | Assistant News Editor

From tree-lined, cobblestone streets to bustling cafes, few neighborhoods in D.C. can replicate the picturesque vibes of Georgetown, so next time you're in the neighborhood pop into one of the best bookstores D.C. has to offer—Bridge Street Books.

Bridge Street Books resides in a charming, red brick building near the intersection of Pennsylvania Avenue and M Street. With a bright, fluorescent sign in the window and rows of books housed in wooden shelves, Bridge Street Books welcomes visitors in to peruse its vast selection. From fiction to history to poetry,

Bridge Street Books is sure to present the right title to every reader this fall.

Lost City Books Gabe Lopez | Contributing Sports Editor

Moody shadows, sprawling plants and dark wooden bookshelves. They're three fall-favorites and three things you can find at Lost City Books. Selling new, used and rare texts, and offering regular author talks and book clubs, there is something for everyone at this independent bookstore in Adams Morgan.

Windows cast eerie shadows across the shelves reaching from the front to the back of the store. Greenery on the windowsills and vintage furniture create the ideal autumnal environment for you to read a ghost story. The staff is friendly and ready to provide you with the perfect novel. You can't go wrong with Lost City Books this fall.

Second Story Books Annie O'Brien | Research Assistant

About a 15-minute walk from campus, Second Story Books hosts stacks of used books, ranging in content from cooking to fiction to philosophy.

While I usually leave other bookstores with a historical fiction novel or con-

temporary rom-com, I have left Second Story with books I never expected to read, like biographies of my favorite authors and books that offer fiction writing advice. This is the bookstore for curious bibliophiles looking to revitalize their reading lists with the new season.

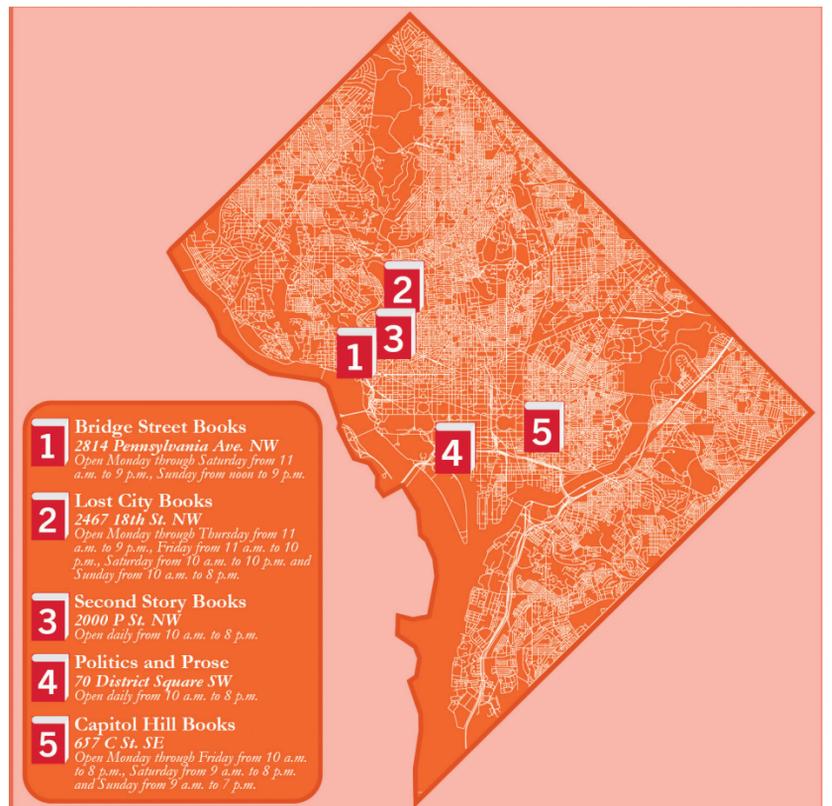
Politics and Prose Abrigail Williams | Community Relations Director

If you're looking to cozy up with a book this fall, take a solo trip to Politics and Prose at The Wharf. And as autumn rounds the corner, walking down The Wharf's narrow cobblestone streets and venturing into the local bookstore might be the perfect way to welcome in the season.

Peruse through the wide selection of genres or pick up a game, some stationery or that staple tote bag you might have seen another student sport around campus. The shop is also known for hosting book talks and other events, so make sure to check their calendar if you plan on sitting in.

Capitol Hill Books Nikki Ghaemi | Contributing News Editor

Capitol Hill Books is brimming with autumnal



- 1** Bridge Street Books
2814 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Open Monday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., Sunday from noon to 9 p.m.
- 2** Lost City Books
2467 18th St. NW
Open Monday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., Friday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- 3** Second Story Books
2000 P St. NW
Open daily from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- 4** Politics and Prose
70 District Square SW
Open daily from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- 5** Capitol Hill Books
637 C St. SE
Open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

NICHOLAS ANASTACIO | GRAPHICS EDITOR

vibes and makes for the perfect way to spend a chilly afternoon. This cozy, multi-level business has plenty of new arrivals along with floor-to-ceiling piles of

used books full of hidden gems.

Handwritten signs with everything from book suggestions to amusing one-liners adorn the shelves

throughout the store as part of this interactive experience. With something for everyone, it's hard to leave Capitol Hill Books empty handed.

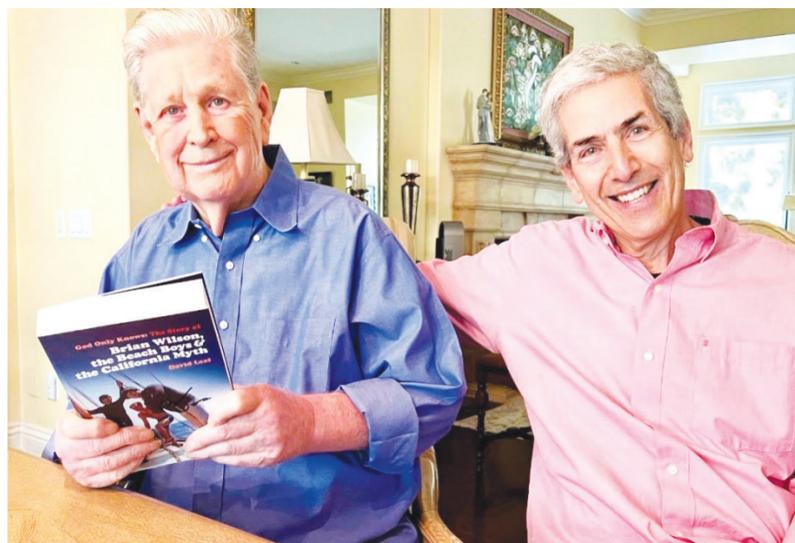


PHOTO COURTESY OF LAUREN MELE

Leaf has wanted to tell stories about Brian Wilson since his time as The Hatchet's music editor in the early 1970s, when he said he assigned himself albums and concerts to review, including those by the Beach Boys.

Alumnus talks friendship with Beach Boys' Brian Wilson in new book

NICK PERKINS STAFF WRITER

The Beach Boys haven't topped the charts with a new song since 1988's "Kokomo," but for music author and GW alumnus David Leaf, the story of the group and their frontman Brian Wilson is still worth telling.

Leaf — an author, director and UCLA professor of music industry — is doing just that in his new book "God Only Knows: The Story of Brian Wilson, the Beach Boys & the California Myth," which releases Thursday. The book is a roughly 150-page expanded version of a biographical opus Leaf originally published in 1978, recounting Wilson's career and creative frustrations as the primary artistic mind behind many of the band's hits like "Wouldn't it Be Nice" and "Surfin' USA."

Leaf wanted to tell the story of the iconic group and its innovative leader since his time as The Hatchet's music editor in the early 1970s, during which he said he assigned himself albums and concerts to review, including those by the Beach Boys.

"The first pieces I wrote for The Hatchet were about Brian Wilson and the Beach Boys," Leaf said. "And that was where I began to tell the story that I was going to tell."

Leaf attended GW from 1969 to 1973 and first discovered Wilson and the Beach Boys while at GW about five years after their commercial peak. He said he went to a

now-defunct record store near 13th Street and New York Avenue called Record City, where he saw a copy of Rolling Stone with the six long-haired Beach Boys sitting on the cover.

He said the article enlightened him to the musical genius of Brian Wilson and the dysfunctional family that made up the rest of Wilson's band. Both of these themes are prevalent in Leaf's 1978 book, where he describes how the other members of the Beach Boys, particularly Wilson's cousin Mike Love, prevented the artist from achieving his full musical ambitions in criticizing some of Wilson's more personal work on the albums "Pet Sounds" and "SMiLE."

Leaf said he returned to the record store to purchase a copy of the Beach Boys' 17th album, "Surf's Up," which he heaped praise upon through his review in The Hatchet.

"Both for their music and the return of Brian Wilson, who is definitely one of the best writers of melody in the pop spectrum, it is good to have them back," Leaf said in his 1971 Hatchet review of the band's most recent album.

He said the discovery of his passion for telling the stories of the artists he admired pushed him to move to California, where he would go on to write a book on Wilson, befriend him and help him finish his abandoned rock album "SMiLE."

Leaf accomplished his goals of befriend and

writing a book about Wilson in 1978 when he published "The Beach Boys and the California Myth." The book chronicled Wilson's early career, including the struggles he faced creatively and personally, and featured interviews with Wilson and many close to him.

Leaf said the musician would ask Leaf to come on tour with him because Leaf would be the only person there as a friend while everyone else would be there as a co-worker.

"Friend, cheerleader, semi-ghostwriter, author, filmmaker, tribute producer, I fulfilled a lot of roles in his life," Leaf said. "But the one that matters to him the most is friend."

Leaf said the new edition of the book focuses more on his own friendship with Wilson and memories from home and on the road.

Forty-four years after the book's initial release, Leaf said he has received praise for his work from famous artists, like when he ran into legendary rock artist Tom Petty backstage at the 1991 Billboard Music Awards. Leaf recalls Petty standing next to him backstage and leaning over to say "Great book, man."

"The people who matter recognized what the book was because they already knew who Brian was, and they were thrilled that somebody had put it into print," Leaf said of the interaction. "So I think that was, what I did was, I put Brian Wilson's story into print in such a way that it couldn't be denied."

Corcoran unveils sculptures, innovative projections at fall exhibits

ISABELLA MACKINNON STAFF WRITER

The bronze doors of the galleries at the Corcoran School of the Arts and Design's Flagg Building have opened for the gallery's fall season, flooding the palatial atrium with sunlight and ushering in large-scale, immersive exhibitions.

This month, the gallery will debut a sculptural exhibition titled "Renewal" that highlights restored work by visual artist and sculptor Robert Stackhouse and "Legacy: Fifty Years of Dance on the Edge," a celebration of the career of Corcoran dance professor Maida Withers. These two exhibits are respectively composed of sculptural art and video projections of dance choreography, marking the first of the fall season's events.

Renewal

Ghost Dance — a nearly five-foot-tall, semicircular, vertical structure made of consecutive slats of recycled, industrial-grade wood — marks the focal point of Renewal. Stackhouse first unveiled Ghost Dance nearly 40 years ago, drawing inspiration from the 19th-century Native American movement among the Nevada Northern Paiute to restore ownership of their land and way of life.

The sculpture explores themes of renewal, rebirth and sustainability through its use of recycled materials. The spiritual movement of Ghost Dance emerged after European settlers brought a period of devastating dis-

ease to the Paiute people in Nevada who wished to cleanse their land of the European settlers and sustain its natural beauty.

When viewers enter the gallery, Stackhouse invites them to circle the structure to experience the "ritualistic movement" of the architectural piece as light filters through the gaps in the wooden slats. He said the curvature of the piece gives it the shape of an arc when viewed from the side, but simply a horizontal line when viewed head-on.

The accompanying pieces to Ghost Dance produce a vibrant assortment of sculptural art constructed from driftwood, an old shirt, shells, house paint and repurposed frames that invite the viewer to find the innate artistic nature in common recycled goods.

"Some, I look at them and I don't know what the intention of the artist was, but I can see some things where it's a very clever use of the connection between what they see and what they did," Stackhouse said. "So really, I'm happy to see that this sculpture helps people deal with their creative process."

Legacy: Fifty Years of Dance on the Edge

Friday will mark the opening of Legacy: Fifty Years of Dance on the Edge, a dynamic exhibition honoring Corcoran dance professor Maida Withers' spectacular body of choreographic work through technology, like projected video archives.

The daunting task of distilling a five-decade career

of contributions to the dance world, with Corcoran included, into one exhibit was no small feat for Withers and her collaborators. The result is a cohesive production that displays her longtime love for dance.

Withers has taught classes in topics like choreography, improvisation and performance art theory and practice at GW since 1965.

Fifty years later, she has selected seven pieces to be displayed in their full length on seven large monitors erected in the atrium of the gallery. In a room adjacent to the atrium, more choreographic works have been condensed into short segments that will be projected in a mosaic of alternating videos spanning the entirety of the walls and ceiling, fully immersing the viewer.

To execute the projections, Withers said she collaborated with local projectionist Robin Bell who is known for projecting political statements onto influential buildings in the District. She said they worked together in complementary styles and share a proclivity for experimenting with light and lasers and incorporating pointed messages about censorship, intersectionality and the environment.

Withers said she is excited to see the gallery include an exhibition of dance because she doesn't see dance featured in many museums.

"It's rather symbolic for me, being able to have the University recognize that as a professor in the arts, there's a lot of different places for a dance career at GW," Withers said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DENNIS DELORIA

Friday will mark the opening of "Legacy: Fifty Years of Dance on the Edge," a dynamic exhibition honoring Corcoran professor Maida Withers' spectacular body of choreographic work through projected video archives.

Sports

GAMES OF THE WEEK



MEN'S SOCCER
vs. Howard
Wednesday 1 p.m. EDT
The Colonials look to notch their second straight victory in a nonconference game against the Bisons.



WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL
vs. Loyola Chicago
Friday 6 p.m. EDT
GW takes on the Ramblers, looking to secure a victory in its first conference game of the season.

NUMBER CRUNCH

829

Men's golf's 54-hole score at the VCU Shootout, good for a third-place finish and a new program record.

Former star athletes build on illustrious legacies as graduate assistant coaches

GABE LOPEZ
CONTRIBUTING SPORTS EDITOR

NURIA DIAZ
SPORTS EDITOR

Sierra Lange and Andras Levai were star-studded student-athletes during their past careers at GW, setting program records and dominating conference competition for softball and water polo, respectively.

The two are now graduate students at GW and joined the coaching staff of their former teams to share their experiences of accolades with the next generation of student-athletes rising through both athletic programs. The Hatchet spoke to softball Head Coach Chrissy Schoonmaker and water polo Head Coach Richard King to discuss the new additions of Lange and Levai as graduate assistant coaches.

Here's what they had to say:

Andras Levai: Leading water polo scorer rises as natural leader

When Andras Levai first arrived from Hungary as a freshman international student in 2017, water polo gave him a chance to adjust to the new environment in GW, where King said he helped coach and lead his other teammates during his four years. Now Levai is preparing to take the next step in collegiate sports as water polo's graduate assistant coach, where he will focus on team fitness training, like strength and conditioning exercises while also helping left-handed scorers.

"He's been technically a coach of some guys that he's played with for four years, and the 18-year-old version of Andras wouldn't have been able to do it," King said. "But his experience over the last four years, where he took on more and more of a leadership, role and a mentor role at the end of his playing career just made for a natural step over to the coaching staff."

Levai is considered one of the program's all-time greats under King's leadership, ranked third among left-handers with 279 career goals and 205 assists and nestled in the top-five for steals and field blocks.

Levai picked up All-Conference nods in 2019, 2020 and 2021 and was named an All-American in the 2019 season. He received a spot on the Atlantic-10 All-Championship team in 2017, 2018 and 2019 and earned the title of Rookie of the Mid-Atlantic Water Polo Conference Championship in the 2017 season.

King said because Levai played for two conference-winning championship teams, he could help the new players adapt to the intensity and expectations of a winning GW team. He said Levai would focus on coaching game strategy, like which angles to approach in the pool while driving to score.

"That's the thing that I see as his biggest contribution is that he's been part of the winning squad, and winning is a learned behavior," King said. "And so he can help these guys get back in touch with our winning behaviors."

Water polo has been one of the more consistent teams in GW Athletics with five-straight appearances at the MAWPC Championship.

Levai led the Colonials to a .358 clip at the end of the season, and he earned him All-Conference Honors with 267 goals and 170 assists in the pool. Levai led the team with 45 goals, 27 assists and a .336 clip to put a stamp on his dominant role on the GW team.

Sierra Lange: Softball star leading next generation of aces

On the field, former softball ace Sierra Lange prepares to shift from her standout pitching performance to train future arms on the mound as a graduate assistant coach under the leadership of Schoonmaker.



HATCHET FILE PHOTOS

Former water polo utility player Andras Levai and softball pitcher Sierra Lange delivered some of the best talent their respective programs have ever seen, and now they're looking to share their experience with the rising generation of student athletes

Lange was one of the most dominant players in GW's softball program history, silencing opposing hitters with a 2.54 ERA throughout her career while collecting a program record 785 strikeouts and 94 wins over 829.1 innings and 158 appearances, 133 of which were starts.

"She's an incredible human, she's an incredible competitor and I think anybody on our roster is just really fortunate to be around her every day, including our coaching staff," Schoonmaker said.

Schoonmaker, last season's A-10 Coach of the Year, said she decided to hire Lange as an assistant coach because of her masterful performance on the mound and the experience she would bring

to the team. She said the "wealth of experience" that Lange brings to the team will translate to the roster development as she looks to showcase her skills to new student-athletes looking to anchor the team's pitching in the future.

"She's a graduate assistant, so she can just help us in different areas," Schoonmaker said. "Like sometimes in practice, she might be tossing a pitch. There might be times where she's helping us throw warmups to outfielders, she's done a little bit helping with tossing to the hitters right now."

Lange could do it all on the softball diamond as a pitcher, hitter and fielder. Last season, she was the only player in the entire A-10 conference to maintain an earned

run average under 3.00 and a batting average above .300 as a gold standard for pitchers and hitters, respectively.

She tossed a 2.40 ERA and 223 strikeouts during her final season, while also collecting an All-American nod and a nomination for the NCAA Woman of the Year. She was named A-10 Pitcher of the Week 10 times in her career and A-10 Pitcher of the Year in 2021 and 2022.

At the plate, Lange had a team-leading .377 batting average and a .578 slugging percentage while collecting 169 runs, 126 runs batted in and 241 hits. She ranks in the all-time top five at GW for all of those stats in addition to extra-base hits, total bases and on-base percentage.

Men's soccer wins first conference match against quiet Davidson offense

LUKE WIENECKE
STAFF WRITER

The Colonials won their first conference game Saturday, rebounding from a winless two weeks as they enter the regular season stretch of Atlantic-10 competition.

The Colonials (3-2-2) beat the Davidson Wildcats (1-5-1) by a score of 1-0 at home after holding a strong defense on the front lines of the zone that kept the Wildcats out of the box for the majority of the game. The winning goal came in the 51st minute off the foot of GW graduate forward Oscar Haynes Brown following a drawn-out defensive battle from both sides.

GW senior goalie Justin Grady halted the first major Davidson push when he intercepted a through ball in the 11th minute in the early part of what little action he saw guarding the Colonials net.

In the 13th minute, Davidson notched back-to-back corner kicks, neither of which resulted in goals past GW's continued defensive barrier. Minutes later, Davidson managed to cook up another offensive

push, this time successfully pulling goalie Justin Grady out right before crossing it back and missing the open shot wide left.

With about 22 minutes to go in the first half, the game paused for a hydration break as both squads continued to struggle to gain offensive momentum. Senior forward Tom Cooklin led the GW offense at forward and fired his first shot of the match, missing from long distance high over the crossbar in the 25th minute.

Minutes later, freshman forward Alex Nicholson secured the closest free kick of the game at the time, which Cooklin took inside the box. He kicked it close, before successfully crossing it, but nobody was on the receiving end to fire a shot on goal.

Davidson started with possession in the second half and attacked the GW net early. Grady saved the Wildcats' first shot on goal with a dive in his first-and-only official save of the day. Just three minutes into the second half, the ball had entered the GW box three times.

Shortly after, the Wildcats had their best

opportunity to score and gain a 1-0 lead after a beautiful cross gave Davidson's freshman midfielder Baylen Young a wide-open shot. He extended his left foot before tripping, which allowed a GW defender to knock it out of bounds and prevent a game-changing goal.

On the counterattack, GW's Norris managed to float a long one to Cooklin on the right side. Cooklin remained patient, dribbling it down toward the corner before perfectly crossing it to Haynes Brown who knocked in the open shot to give GW a decisive 1-0 lead in the 51st minute.

After a corner kick from GW in the 68th minute, Davidson launched a counterattack that gained them a free shot from just 20 yards out. The Colonials defense held strong and managed to clear the ball back to Davidson territory.

With just four minutes to go, Davidson found their last chance with a goal kick in GW territory, but Grady managed to reign it in. The GW defense maintained a strong effort, which helped give them their first A-10 victory of the season.



FILE PHOTO BY GABRIELLE RHOADS

The Colonials logged their fourth tie of the season, struggling to execute on offense at the top of the box past the opposing defense.

Women's soccer ties with George Mason to extend undefeated streak

NURIA DIAZ
SPORTS EDITOR

Women's soccer tied with George Mason University in their Atlantic 10 opener Thursday afternoon in GW's seventh game without a loss through the regular season.

Reaching their longest undefeated streak since 2019, the Colonials (3-0-5) hung on against the Patriots (1-5-3) in a 1-1 shootout on their home turf at the Mount Vernon Campus field. The Colonials started with a slow offense but gained momentum during the second half when they scored the first goal of the match before its otherwise-lockdown defense let in a game-tying George Mason goal in the second half.

The NCAA issued new guidelines this season, which eliminates overtime during the regular season, leading to more ties when the score remains even as time expires. The new set of rules has benefitted the GW team in the loss column compared to last season when the Colonials dropped 12 games through the regular season.

Freshman athletes like goalkeeper Grace

Crowe have anchored the team's defense to keep opponents to no more than two goals per game. The Colonials continue to work on creating new scoring opportunities after struggling to penetrate their opponent's defense with consistency.

The Colonials shot at a .083 clip with 10 shots on goal while the Patriots averaged a .125 shooting percentage with three shots on goal. The Colonials sought to undermine the open Patriots defense but struggled to effectively weave their attacking play into the net.

The Colonials responded with a kick from graduate student forward Rachel Sorkenn from the bottom right that George Mason freshman goalkeeper Selamawit Caldart saved. Sorkenn regained possession and worked the ball up from bottom center, shooting but failing to put it past Caldart.

Patriots junior forward Ashley Shimberg subbed into the game and applied extra pressure to the GW defense, opening up the zone to set up freshman midfielder Mia Casciani

for a shot from the bottom right. GW freshman goalkeeper Grace Crowe ate up the shot for a save.

The Colonials encountered two more scoring opportunities as back-and-forth exchanges continued — junior defender Margaret Rabbitt and sophomore midfielder Abby Mansoor shot from the top, but two saves from George Mason's Caldart stymied the attacks.

In the 47th minute, GW's Rabbitt scored off a corner for her second goal of the season coming off an assist from graduate student midfielder Sammy Neyman. The first goal of the game set the score at 1-0.

The Colonials sought to increase their attacks with three shots on goal, but Caldart snatched each attempt to hold the GW lead to just one.

The Patriots substituted in freshman forward Sophie Davidson during the 59th minute, who served to be the deciding factor for George Mason in the game. Within less than a minute of entering play, she broke through with a left foot kick that entered the net to tie the game.



FILE PHOTO BY JORDYN BAILER | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

The Colonials won their first conference game, rebounding from a winless two weeks as they entered the regular season stretch of A-10 competition Saturday.