

The GW Hatchet

Opinions

The editorial board argues that GW should pick the more inclusive and mighty Hippopotamus as its next moniker.
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Students process 'surreal' devastation of Hurricanes Ian, Fiona in hometowns

FAITH WARDWELL
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

OLIVIA EMERSON
REPORTER

When junior Edy Koenigs first saw pictures of her family's garage ripped away from its foundation and friends' homes strewn with debris in the wake of Hurricane Ian, she knew her hometown would "not be the same."

Hurricane Ian, a Category 4 storm, slammed into Florida and tore through Koenigs' neighborhood and dozens more in Lee County late last month. While she pored over photos and videos sent from her hometown, she said childhood memories of cross-country meets and beach trips flooded back when she saw aerial footage of Fort Myers Beach showing ravaged buildings and knocked-down trees.

"You can't even comprehend it," Koenigs said. "And I haven't even been home. I can't even imagine the effects on my friends who are home, my friends who have seen it."

As the death toll climbs past 100 and thousands remain without power, students native to the coastal areas ravaged by the hurricane in the Southeast said they have faced stress and anxiety about their loved ones' safety as communities recover from the storm's devastation.

Koenigs, a native of Cape Coral, Florida, said the high winds of the hurricane tore away her parent's garage, caused a power outage for more than a week and damaged the gutter and shingles of her sister's home.

She said the "hardest part" of dealing with the storm's aftermath was seeing pictures of the homes of friends and family in Cape Coral that endured flooding and interior insulation dam-



Category 4 storm Hurricane Ian slammed into Florida late last month after first making landfall in Cuba.

COURTESY OF KYLE ANDERSON

age after Hurricane Ian passed through.

"Seeing and knowing people impacted, and it actually being a part of your life, and some of those not being rebuilt, some of those being gone forever, is probably the hardest part," Koenigs said.

Koenigs said her hometown suffered minor damage in comparison to neighboring areas like Fort Myers and Sanibel Island, which were "pounded" by the storm, destroying the Sanibel Causeway that connected Sanibel Island to mainland Florida. She said seeing aerial footage of the devastation in Florida brought

her to tears and left her reflecting on the sentimental value of a town home to childhood trips to Dairy Queen, which was likely demolished by the hurricane.

Koenigs said the "surreal" impact of Hurricane Ian has caused additional stress within her daily life after seeing the pictures of damage and speaking to loved ones recovering from the storm – prompting her to skip class, reach out to professors for accommodations and prioritize "being kind" to herself. She said she's struggled to separate herself from the news of the hurricane's destruction and heal from the storm's impact on her hometown

due to buzz on campus about the storm.

"With everybody talking about it, and it being something that impacted me, you couldn't really get away from it," Koenigs said. "Even if people were doing it with good intentions, it was just the mental impact of your hometown being destroyed by itself and then the impact of you not being able to escape the discussion of it."

Elizabeth Brown, a junior from Sarasota, Florida, said her mind continued to wander back to her hometown throughout the day of the hurricane's Florida landfall, worrying about her

loved ones who sat in the path of a Category 4 storm despite trying to focus on her Capitol Hill internship.

"The day of, I was a wreck," Brown said. "I was at work – I intern for a Michigan senator – and I'm supposed to be worrying about Michigan, but all I kept doing was tracking the hurricane in Florida and seeing the most recent updates."

Brown said she has grown accustomed to the "panic" of hurricane warnings after years of living in Florida, so she initially didn't view Hurricane Ian as a cause for concern until she learned of the severity of the storm and her parents' choice to not evacuate.

Brown said her parents decided to stay in their home located on the coastal island of Siesta Key instead of crossing the bridge to evacuate inland. She said her parents opted to remain in their house, freshly renovated with a generator, a 12-foot foundation and specialized hurricane glass following 2017's Hurricane Irma.

"I did feel a bit better knowing our house was a hurricane fortress," Brown said.

Brown said her family was fortunate to not suffer damage to their home, but buildings and homes in neighboring towns were destroyed. She said the nearby Venice Little Theater on Venice Island, about 15 miles south of Siesta Key – which had sentimental value for Brown, who frequently visited as a child to watch friends perform – was "completely wrecked."

"It was bare bones," Brown said. "You could see the light gaffing, and the catwalks were all exposed because the exterior of the building was completely gone. That was one of the more sad updates that I got."

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Donor base shrinks amid unpopular administrative decision making

DANIEL PATRICK GALGANO
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

GW's donations have increased by more than \$1 million during 2022, but the numbers of donors has shrunk, Alumni Association President Will Alexander III announced at the Board of Trustees meeting Friday.

Alexander III said GW has started to rely on a smaller group of high-yield donors who have helped maintain fundraising levels to meet the University's financial goals during the past three to five years. He attributed the loss of some of those donors to personal disagreements with University issues, like aversion to the removal of the Colonials moniker in favor of a University rebrand.

He said officials hope to address concerns from disgruntled donors about administrative decisions through community events to revive GW's donor base.

"One of the things that has been kind of a concerning trend, even as we've come out of the pandemic, is some of the overall value of what's been donated has either kept steady or had a slight bump," he said at the Board meeting. "We're getting more from the people who are donating – but there has been over the past maybe three to five years, a noticeable contraction in the number of donors."

"Is there perhaps a more constructive outlet for you to be able to voice your dissent?" he said of community members who have stopped donating because of University issues. "You're not necessarily hurting the administrator or the part of the University that maybe did a thing that you didn't agree with, you're hurting the students and the vision of what we're trying to accomplish here."

Speights declined to sit down with The Hatchet after the meeting, marking a year since she has agreed



At the Board of Trustees meeting Friday, Alumni Association President Will Alexander III said officials hope to revive GW's donor base through community events.

SAGE RUSSELL | PHOTOGRAPHER

to answer questions about the state of the University – breaking from a yearslong precedent for chairs of the Board.

Trustee Roslyn Brock, the chair of the Presidential Search Committee, said the committee will be ready to release its presidential profile – which describes the qualifications and attributes officials are looking for in potential candidates – in the next week.

The committee hosted a series of community forums about the search last month with students, staff, faculty and alumni who called for an increased commitment to diversity and wider community involvement in major decisions from GW's next president.

"Following the forums, the committee held a successful, two-day retreat to digest the feedback provided in the forums and further consider and refine the types of candidates they hope to meet," Brock said.

The University's requirements for faculty and staff Title IX training is not listed on its Title IX education and training webpage.

At the Board's May meeting, Bendit said the number of employees who had completed the training was "unacceptable," with a 20 percent faculty completion rate of the courses.

"The quarterly enterprise risk management report included the report on the Title IX training plan, which remains a great concern for the committee," he said Friday. "The provost and chief administrative officer were charged with providing the committee a status of completion rates for both faculty and staff in November."

Bendit, who also is the vice chair for the Board's Finance and Investments Committee and delivered the committee's report, said GW's endowment has reached about \$2.3 billion, a nearly \$100 million decline from where it stood in April.

He also said officials are on track to meet GW's goal of divesting its endowment from companies that focus on fossil fuel extraction by 2025.

"Despite the recent downturn in the market, GW's pooled endowment – which is separate from its real estate holdings – has outperformed the benchmarks," he said.

GW net assets declined, MFA debt grew in last fiscal year: report

DANIEL PATRICK GALGANO
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

IANNE SALVOSA
CONTRIBUTING NEWS EDITOR

GW's net assets declined by more than \$130 million dollars during fiscal year 2022, according to the University's audited financial statements from June 2021 to June 2022, which officials released last month.

The University's more than \$2 billion in net assets declined by about \$58 million, and the Medical Faculty Associates – a group of physicians and faculty from the School of Medicine and Health Sciences and physicians at the GW Hospital – lost nearly \$80 million by the end of the fiscal year in June. The statements show the MFA owes GW more than \$120 million, bringing the nonprofit's total debt to nearly \$200 million, while the University also paid off more than \$130,000 of its nearly \$2 million long-term debt from "financing activities."

The document states that much of the decline in GW's net assets – which include more than \$1 billion in real estate holdings – came as officials spent nearly \$160 million of its cash reserves and another \$170 million of its investments in items like stocks and government bonds, while the University continued in-person operations during the last academic year.

"GW's strong financial position and balance sheet will allow the University to continue to invest in faculty, initiatives and programs across the academic enterprise, in alignment with the University's mission and priorities," officials said in a statement accompanying the report.

GW's net assets increased by about \$300 million at the end of 2021 as they bolstered the amount of pooled investments, like the University's endowment.

University spokespeople Tim Pierce and Josh Gross-



The documents show the MFA has about \$73 million in outstanding debt from outside lenders, including a national bank, a health record company and the GW Hospital.

KIM COURTNEY | PHOTOGRAPHER

man declined multiple requests for comment on the size of the MFA's debt and whether officials are confident in the organization's ability to repay it.

Joe Cordes, a professor of economics and the co-chair of the Faculty Senate's Fiscal Planning and Budget Committee, said the drop in net assets is in line with trends across much of the higher education industry. He said colleges and universities including GW dealt with financial constraints coming back from COVID-19, but the MFA's financial decline makes the University's financial position look worse.

"The 78 million negative change in net assets experienced by the MFA is not par-for-the-course, it's a matter of concern, and people have said it is a matter of concern." Faculty senators expressed concerns in May about the MFA's more than \$40 million deficit during the 2021 fiscal year and its consistently low revenue during the last few fiscal years.

The documents show the MFA has about \$73 million in outstanding debt from lenders, including a national bank, a health record company and the GW Hospital. The MFA has also borrowed \$42 million out of a maximum \$50 million from a revolving credit facility – a type of loan that allows an institution to take and repay

smaller amounts of funds from a pool of credit over a longer period.

The documents state the University has extended a "temporary loan" to the MFA but did not specify how much money the University lent the MFA.

Cordes said GW has lent the MFA about \$70 million over the past year, potentially draining the University's budget for campus spending. He said GW has guaranteed most of the MFA's roughly \$73 million in outside debt, which means GW is responsible for paying off the debt if the MFA is unable to do so.

Cordes said officials have started negotiations with some of the MFA's outside lenders to fix the interest rate on its loans. He said as the Federal Reserve continues to raise interest rates, the amount the MFA would have to pay back could increase, but most of the University's debt is already fixed, meaning rising interest rates wouldn't have a large impact on non-MFA finances.

"On the one hand, it may increase the University's borrowing costs for some things, but it doesn't increase them for the large chunks of debt that we have outstanding, which are all fixed," he said. "It does give the University the opportunity to earn a somewhat higher income."

News

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

AN ENVIRONMENTALLY AUGMENTED MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY INDEX: THE CASE OF MADAGASCAR

Monday, Oct. 10 | 11 a.m. EDT | Online | Free
Attend a conversation on the connections between poverty and environmental issues, with a focus on Madagascar.

ESCAPING THE TALIBAN, ONE YEAR LATER

Wednesday, Oct. 12 | 12 p.m. EDT | Elliott School of International Affairs | Free
Join a talk with geopolitics expert Ali Wyne about his new book, "America's Great-Power Opportunity: Revitalizing U.S. Foreign Policy to Meet the Strategic Challenges of Strategic Competition."

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY
Oct. 15, 1987

The Hatchet reported that a team of three surgeons performed GW Hospital's first-ever heart transplant with a five-hour procedure.

SNAPSHOT

LILY SPEREDELOZZI | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Students gathered in Kogan Plaza Thursday for Joyfest, complete with food, a pumpkin decorating station, live music and more.

CRIME LOG

UNLAWFUL ENTRY

Media and Public Affairs Building
10/2/2022 – 11:16 p.m.
Closed Case
GW Police Department officers responded to a report of a non-GW affiliated male subject who was at an invite-only event for the School of Media and Public Affairs. He was barred from campus.
Subject barred.

DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY/VANDALISM

Thurston Hall
9/23/2022 – 8:33 p.m.
Closed Case
A female staff member reported damages to a wall.
Referred to the Division for Student Affairs.

THEFT II/OTHER

2100 Block of H Street
10/3/2022 – Unknown
Open Case
A female student reported her electric scooter stolen from outside a building.
Case open.

HARASSMENT (VERBAL OR WRITTEN)

Potomac House
10/3/2022 – Multiple
Closed Case
A male student reported being repeatedly harassed by a former male roommate.
Referred to the Title IX Office.

HARASSMENT (VERBAL OR WRITTEN)

University Yard (Breezeway)
10/4/2022 – 1:40 p.m.
Open Case
A female student reported being harassed by an unknown male subject while walking through University Yard. The subject was startling people as they walked past.
Case open.

HARASSMENT (VERBAL OR WRITTEN)

University Student Center
10/5/2022 – Multiple
Closed Case
A female student reported being harassed by a male subject.
Referred to the Title IX Office.

SIMPLE ASSAULT

Off-Campus (Clarendon, Virginia)
10/2/2022 – Unknown
Closed Case
A male student reported that an unknown male subject yelled profanities and attempted to punch him.
Off-campus incident.

— Compiled by Tyler Krambeer.

Referrals for drug, liquor law violations plummet to decade low in 2021, report shows

AMITA GANESH
REPORTER

GRACE CHINOWSKY
CONTRIBUTING NEWS EDITOR

Drug and liquor law violation referrals plummeted to record-low levels in 2021 while reports of stalking and fondling on campus jumped back near pre-pandemic numbers, according to GW's Annual Security and Fire Safety Report released late last month.

The report shows the number of disciplinary referrals for liquor and drug law violations dropped by two-thirds from 2020 to 2021 – the lowest total in at least a decade – but stalking and fondling reports on campus more than quadrupled. GW Police Department Chief James Tate said increased student awareness and education about campus crime reporting may account for the rise in stalking and fondling reports, but defining the reason for the drop in liquor and drug law referrals is more challenging.

"GWPD aims to provide a safe and secure campus for all members of the University community," Tate said. "It is difficult to pinpoint one reason or another as to why reports to GWPD may have increased or decreased one year versus another."

GWPD received 20 reports of fondling last year, exceeding the most recent pre-pandemic total of 12 in 2019 before the number fell to four in 2020. Last year's count marked the highest volume of fondling reports since GWPD received 23 in 2018.

The department also received 16 reports of stalking in 2021, up from four in 2020 but falling below the 23 reports logged the year before that.

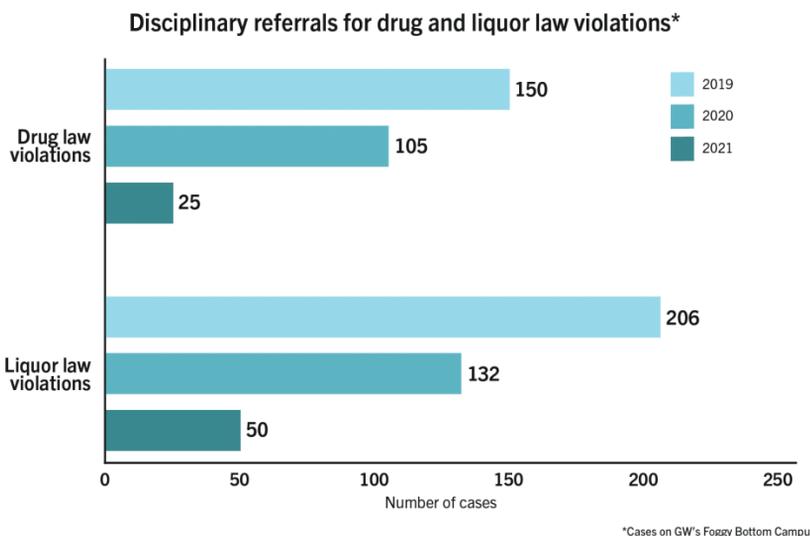
The federal Clery Act requires universities to release reports on campus security and fire safety annually.

Tate said GW continues to encourage students to "take care of each other" and educate themselves about crime prevention.

"It is encouraging when students feel more comfortable providing a report and are able to receive support services," Tate said in an email.

The report shows seven fires took place in Foggy Bottom residence halls in 2021, six with damage expenses totaling less than \$10,000, except for an oven fire in JBKO Hall last October that cost between \$10,000 and \$25,000. A University spokesperson did not return The Hatchet's request for the cost of GW's repairs to JBKO.

Disciplinary referrals for



NICHOLAS ANASTACIO | GRAPHICS EDITOR

liquor and drug law violations fell from 132 and 105 reports in 2020 respectively – when most students were not on campus because of COVID-19 – to 50 and 25 last year, while pre-pandemic data from 2019 showed 206 and 150 alcohol and drug law referrals. Tate said "certain reporting" decreased in 2021 because of GW's COVID policies that minimized the presence of students on campus, even though campus reopened to the entire student body halfway through 2021.

Witt Kolsky – a sophomore and member of the Division of Safety and Facilities Student Advisory Board, which helps the University identify campus safety concerns among the student body – said the lack of students on campus during the first half of 2021 skewed campus crime data. He said Tate did not mention any enforcement policy changes that would account for the drop in referrals for liquor and drug law violations.

Tate said the lack of students on campus through pandemic-related closures led to a 75 percent drop of campus crime during 2020.

The Georgetown University Police Department recorded a similar spike in stalking reports, which jumped from 13 in 2020, according to their security and fire safety report. The department received one more report of fondling in 2021 than 2020 with seven last year, the report states. American University Police Department registered four reports of stalking on campus in 2021 – down from 10 in 2020 – and four total reports of fondling through 2019, 2020 and 2021.

The number of disciplinary referrals for liquor and drug law violations has plunged on Georgetown's and American's campuses

since 2019. Georgetown's referrals for liquor law violations dropped from 251 three years ago to 21 in 2021, and those for drug law violations have fallen from 66 in 2019 to three last year. At American, liquor law violation referrals fell from 442 in 2019 to 215 in 2021, and drug law referrals decreased from 170 in 2019 to 29 in 2021.

GW's annual security and fire safety report states that six of the 20 fondling reports in 2021 occurred in nonresidential University buildings or outdoor spaces, like academic or common areas, but nearly all cases in 2019 and 2020 took place in residence halls. A quarter of the 16 reported stalking incidents took place in residence halls, compared to about half in 2020 and 2019.

Experts said the rise in stalking and fondling reports shows that students are more aware of their experiences that might be a reportable offense. They said the pandemic cannot entirely explain the drop in liquor and drug law referrals because the timing of students' departure and return to campus doesn't align with the decrease.

Laura Egan, the senior director of programs at the Clery Center – a national nonprofit organization that helps universities carry out the Clery Act requirement for campus crime reporting – said nationwide reports of fondling or stalking have not mirrored the uptick at GW.

"That's where, without a little bit more context, sometimes the Clery crime statistics leave more questions than answers," Egan said. "But that's okay."

She said officials added categories like stalking, dating violence and domestic violence to the report in 2014 to specify crime classification and educate students about

what constitutes a crime, which may result in an increase of reports.

"I would say it's very positive that you have those numbers because that means that people are reporting that," Egan said.

David Weisburd, a professor of criminology, law and society at George Mason University, said the 75 percent drop in disciplinary referrals for drug law violations between 2020 and 2021 is statistically significant, but the timing does not entirely reflect a trend that could be related to COVID-19. He said the pandemic cannot entirely explain a drop in liquor or drug law violation referrals that drastic, and changes in policy enforcement usually account for similar decreases.

He said the number of stalking and fondling reports may reflect circumstantial situations instead of major trends because the relatively small sample size leaves room for potential errors in crime analysis, like the exaggeration of trends.

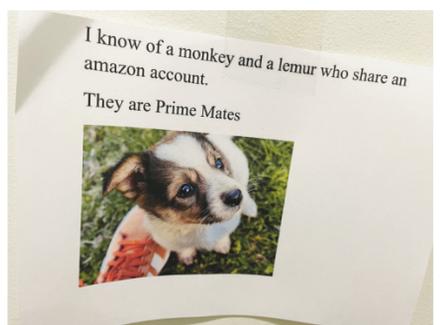
Jane Palmer, an associate professor of justice, law and criminology at American University, said Clery crime statistics are not an accurate representation of campus crime and instead reflect campus reporting culture. She said stalking and fondling reports are likely to rise if students are comfortable with their options to report crime.

"There's less reporting if we have a gap in hiring, like someone leaves and it takes a while to hire the advocate," Palmer said. "Or if we get a really great advocate that through word of mouth, students are like 'I'm totally comfortable reporting to this person,' whereas before the advocate was nice, but not somebody they wanted to tell their trauma to."

TWEETED

To the person who posted this in Monroe Hall @GWtweets, I see you and you are important. #onlyatGW #DadEnergy

W. Andrew Barr - PAPER Lab on 10/4/2022



TWITTER/@WABARREE

Thousands attend Women's March as midterm elections approach

SHEA CARLBERG
STAFF WRITER

Thousands of protesters blocked off streets near the Capitol Saturday, pushing for reproductive rights four months after the overturn of Roe v. Wade.

The Women's March organization led the protest exactly one month prior to the midterm elections, walking along Washington Avenue before finishing at Union Square. Protesters said electing pro-choice representatives in the midterm elections was their primary inspiration for marching.

The march began with a rally in Folger Park, a couple of blocks southeast of the Capitol, guided by singer and comedian Lea DeLaria, with performances from singers Milck, Bianco and Autumn Rowe, who led the crowds in chants of "we won't go back" and "this is what democracy looks like" before marching to the Capitol. Protesters wore blue eyeliner and held signs showing blue waves, symbolizing Democratic victories in the upcoming midterms.

Organizers of the march said each of the speakers included were "very carefully" hand-picked to ensure the messages were relevant to current issues, with representatives from abortion justice group All Above All, the National Women's Law Center, Planned Parenthood and experts on the Iranian crisis.

Rachel O'Leary Carmona, the executive director of Women's March, said the march allows different communities to come together in a visible demonstration for a multitude of "leading issues" involving fundamental freedoms

like reproductive rights.

"What we're trying to do is build the momentum necessary to get us through the next four weeks, with our base stirred up ready to go and go out to the polls," Carmona said.

Autumn Rowe, songwriter and one of the march's performers, said she remembers going to her first march and feeling comforted by the people who shared her same passion. She said the "best" way she knows how to fight for her rights and be loud is through music.

"Once I saw there was so many other people feeling the same way; we had each other," Rowe said. "So we're stronger in numbers, we're stronger together. And by assembling today, we're showing that power."

High school student Ella Barrett attended the march with her mother and Argentinian grandmother, all wearing green to symbolize Argentina's legalization of abortions in 2020. She said she and her family drove from Pennsylvania to attend the march to advocate for the rights of herself and the people close to her.

"I'm mostly here for my rights when I get older, for my sister's rights, for my cousin's," Barrett said.

Lara Kalin, a stay-at-home mother from Philadelphia, drove her two daughters to the march and said has been working to get more mothers involved in reproductive activism.

"I want my daughters to start fighting for themselves early," Kalin said. "And I want them to see me doing it. And I want them to continue doing it because I have a



SOPHIE MOTEN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

feeling this is just the beginning for a lot of us. And so it's important to raise them as fighters essentially."

Abigail Brick and Nate King, who work at an abortion clinic in Cleveland, said they came to the march to help big turnouts at protests inspire people to take action and volunteer at clinics across the country.

"It's very liberating seeing so many different people from so many different places, all for the same cause, it's very inspiring,"

King said.

D.C. resident and software engineer Sonia Glenn said she hoped to inspire other participants with her symbolic outfit marked with blue butterflies and Día de los Muertos face paint.

"There's a lot of problems with pregnancy, so there's a high mortality rate," Glenn said. "So it's very dangerous for women to be pregnant and not have the safety-conscious mind that if something goes wrong with your pregnancy,

you can end it safely."

Glenn said she liked experiencing the spirit between participants and the crowd felt ready to raise their voices in unison.

"I mean we are mad, we're angry because this is our rights, this is our freedom, this is our life," Glenn said. "But we live here, you know? This is our life. We want to dance, we're gonna dance because we need to see and feel good about the things, we cannot be sad and angry all the time."

Officials introduce vice provost of budget and finance

IANNE SALVOSA
CONTRIBUTING NEWS EDITOR

Officials announced a new vice provost of budget and finance Thursday.

Michael Glatzer, the assistant vice president of finance and project management and acting deputy chief financial officer at Howard University, will take over the role of vice provost of budget and finance Oct. 17, according to a GW release. The release states that Glatzer will focus on aligning the student affairs budget with the University's academic mission and will report academic financial matters to the Faculty Senate

and Chief Financial Officer and Vice President Bruno Fernandes.

"Michael's extensive experience in higher education and academic medicine budgeting and finance, his prioritization of campus-wide, cross-departmental collaborations and his passion for innovation and higher education impressed everyone who spoke with him," said Provost Chris Bracey. "He will be a critical fiscal adviser and excellent addition to the provost senior leadership team as we work to strengthen academic excellence and the student experience at GW."

The release states that a search firm, GW com-

munity members and the Faculty Senate Executive Committee selected Glatzer from a national search before selecting Glatzer for the role.

Glatzer led finances for Howard University's "flagship" hospital and helped execute Howard's strategic plans. The release states that in his former professional roles, he has also overseen budgets for business, finance and consulting organizations.

"I am honored and excited to join GW, an important educational and research institution with a tremendous history and an even brighter future," Glatzer said in the release.



RACHEL SCHWARTZ | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

The renovation project should be complete by fall 2023, according to a University release.

Alumni donation to enhance Duques Hall infrastructure, technology

ERIKA FILTER
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Officials will use a \$2.5 million alumni gift to update technology and classrooms in Duques Hall at the School of Business, according to a release Wednesday.

The release states that Henry "Ric" and Dawn Duques donated \$2.5 million to update technology and physical spaces in Duques Hall. The project should be complete by the fall 2023 semester, according to the release.

Anuj Mehrotra, dean of the business school, said the gift will "dramatically elevate" the teaching and learning experience.

"The modernization

will ensure the facility mirrors our stellar academic offerings and catalyzes inspiration and innovation," he said.

The release states that the gift will sponsor construction to add "reversible seating" to the two classrooms in the building, allowing students to switch from facing the podium at the center of the room to facing students in rows behind them. The project will add new technology and update soundproofing for digital instructional content creation in the Instructional Innovation Studio.

Officials said they will use the funds from the gift to facilitate virtual and hybrid instruction and reno-

vate the building's lobby to promote networking.

Ric and Dawn Duques donated \$5 million to the University at their daughter's graduation from the school in 2002.

The \$5 million gift funded Duques' initial construction as an extension to Fungler Hall. Duques initially opened in January 2006.

Ric Duques attended GW's undergraduate program through a basketball scholarship. Duques said he "had no way to pay" to attend GW in 1961.

"The University invested in me," Duques said in the release. "It seems very appropriate to Dawn and me that we share some of our success with GW."



COURTESY OF THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Michael Glatzer, the new vice provost of budget and finance, has overseen budgets for business, finance and consulting organizations like Northrop Grumman Corporation, Lund Industries and Berklene Benchcraft.

GW closes long COVID recovery clinic after two years of operations

SOPHIA GOEDERT
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

At the height of the pandemic in the fall of 2020, Aileen Chang founded GW's COVID Recovery Clinic to treat patients with symptoms of long COVID.

Two years later, Chang, an associate professor of medicine at GW, said the clinic housed in the GW's Medical Faculty Associates has been shut down for four months because of staffing shortages in the MFA. Long COVID, which affects 1 in 3 U.S. adults who catch COVID, causes long-term symptoms like shortness of breath and a lingering cough for months following an initial coronavirus infection, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

University spokesperson Lesley Swiger said patients' long COVID care "transitioned" back to the MFA's primary care office after the clinic closed.

"Our free-standing long COVID clinic is no longer in service, but

instead, we have transitioned this care for our patients back into the primary care office, where strong comprehensive care will be of further benefit to patients on their post-COVID recoveries," Swiger said.

Swiger said the transition allows the MFA to "broaden" patients' access to care, while still referring patients to specialist physicians, physical therapists and other healthcare team members. Swiger declined to say why the clinic closed or how many staff were employed at the clinic and did not specifically say how patients' care will expand.

"At the GW Medical Faculty Associates, we are proud to have offered one of the D.C. metro area's first long COVID clinics, which has enabled us not only to serve our patients but also to learn a lot about caring for the illness," Swiger said.

GW's Center for Integrative Medicine started hosting virtual group sessions about different topics like nutrition, rehabilitation, integrative treatment and mind-

fulness for individuals struggling with long COVID in early September. Johns Hopkins University also runs a post-COVID-19 care clinic to provide specialized care to long COVID patients.

The most common symptoms of long COVID are a lingering cough, shortness of breath, fatigue and heart palpitations. Long COVID also causes neurological symptoms like brain fog, sleep problems, dizziness, depression and anxiety.

Aileen Chang said the clinic provided symptomatic treatments, which sought to mitigate a patient's symptoms for those with long COVID struggling to return to their normal day activities. She said the GW Center for Integrative Medicine - GW's contemporary and alternative medicine practice - is still seeing long COVID patients. Chang said people experiencing symptoms of long COVID can see specialized GW doctors, like those who focus on cardiology, physical therapy and other musculoskeletal issues that stem from long COVID.

"The most important message that I try to give patients right now is that after recovering from COVID it's really important to give your body the time to rest that it needs so that it can recover after the infection," Chang said.

Chang said treatments at the clinic included prescribing blood pressure medication for patients whose blood pressure would drop when standing up, prescribing patients struggling with depression or anxiety with antidepressants and assigning physical therapy to patients with joint pain.

"There are a lot of different presentations that come with long COVID and just being patient and trying to understand where the patient is coming from can be really helpful to helping them on a track to recovery," Chang said.

Olivia Schwinn-Clanton, a junior majoring in public health, said she started showing symptoms of long COVID a month after catching the virus this May and is worried her fatigue symptoms will hurt her

work as an EMT, which requires her to lift patients and heavy objects. She said she has trouble falling asleep at night because that is when her cough is the worst.

"Whenever I cough I'm always afraid that people are going to assume that I'm sick and have something," Schwinn-Clanton said.

She said her doctor prescribed an albuterol inhaler - commonly used for respiratory conditions like asthma and bronchitis - as the only form of treatment she's received for her symptoms. Schwinn-Clanton said she encourages people who think they might have long COVID to see a health professional because they can offer insight into symptoms and potential treatments for the condition.

"Still be cautious that there is a pandemic and that it still can affect you, and you should be aware of your surroundings and who you're interacting with and what you're doing that could put yourself at risk to get sick," Schwinn-Clanton said.



RACHEL SCHWARTZ | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

Faculty members and students celebrated the program's 50th anniversary in Funger Hall at the first of its upcoming speaker events Thursday.

Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies program celebrates 50th year

CAITLIN KITSON
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

As the Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies program reaches its 50th anniversary this year, WGSS officials said the program's history and multidisciplinary approach to education sets it apart from similar programs at other universities.

Ashwini Tambe, the director of the program since 2021, said WGSS has received national acclaim after becoming the first women's studies program in the country in 1972. She said the program's age and the diversity of faculty members' expertise make the program "distinct" from WGSS programs at other institutions.

"We have a range of faculty from multiple departments – sociology, public policy, history, English, philosophy, anthropology – who all regularly teach our core offerings," she said.

Building the program

After students in the University's former Continuing Education for Women project advocated for a graduate program "focused on helping women" in the 1960s to 1970s, the project's founding director Ruth Osborn worked with the administration to develop an interdisciplinary graduate degree program.

The University launched the women's studies master's degree program in 1972 under the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences and enrolled students the following year. After launching their first degree program, officials added a master's degree in public policy with a concentration in women's studies in 1982.

Officials also created a "gender and social policy"

field within the University's public policy doctorate program in 1997, now a joint degree with the Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration.

Cynthia Deitch, the associate director of the program since 1996, said the program often draws students who are interested in politics and public policy due to its location in D.C.

Deitch said hiring Tambe as the director of the program in 2021 increased the number of WGSS-associated faculty members because Tambe was an outside hire from the University of Maryland, College Park who has recruited faculty from outside GW.

The WGSS program lists 35 associated faculty members who come from a variety of departments, ranging from religion to geography, according to its website.

Celebrating the program

WGSS faculty and staff are hosting a speaker series throughout the fall semester with the program's alumni to celebrate the 50th-year anniversary and highlight how their WGSS education influenced their careers. Faculty and students celebrated in Funger Hall for the first in-person event of the speaker series Thursday, which featured two alumni who reflected on their accomplishments that WGSS aided.

Priya Purandare, an alumna who received the program's master's degree in women's studies in 2009, said the WGSS program gave her the education and "language" she needed to lead discussions on gender inclusion with her co-workers through her position as executive director of the Na-

tional Asian Pacific American Bar Association.

Sharon Rogers, an alumna who received the program's master's degree in public policy and women's studies in 1996, said the relationships she built with WGSS faculty members, like Deitch, gave her the mentorship opportunities that helped her succeed in her career in international development.

"I think without that kind of mentoring and without the kind of relationships that I built with Cindy Deitch and Phyllis Palmer, who is gone now but was a founder of the program, I wouldn't have succeeded."

Looking to the future

Tambe said the program recently launched a search for a tenure-track faculty member with expertise in Black feminist studies to strengthen the program's course offerings surrounding Black feminist theory.

"We had to really push for it, and we're really pretty excited to be going through the national, international search right now for a faculty member who we can hire in this area," she said.

Tambe said faculty members in the program have "discussed" the prospect of becoming a full department under CCAS. She said becoming a department would give WGSS its own "secure" group of faculty members who would not have to divide their time between the program and other departments.

"If they're fully in this department, then that means we have faculty who can give us all their time for that teaching, as long as there's service, and help us advise our growing number of students," she said.

Elliott School offers new gender concentration

CAMERON MAYS
REPORTER

LILAH DONNELLY
REPORTER

The Elliott School of International Affairs started offering a new concentration this semester that will allow students to focus on the role of gender in the global landscape of security and politics.

Elliott School officials established the Gender in International Affairs concentration last spring after faculty and students advocated for a curricular focus on acknowledging the impact that global issues have on different genders. Gender in International Affairs will join concentrations like Conflict Resolution, Security Policy and International Economics, and will be the 16th concentration for undergraduates studying international affairs.

Shirley Graham – the director of the Gender Equality Initiative in International Affairs, a group of Elliott School faculty and staff who promotes gender inclusivity in international affairs – said she created the concentration to make students more proficient in the field of gender in international affairs after her students expressed interest in the topic in past semesters. She said she presented the gender concentration to the dean of the Elliott School's Council last spring, and the council approved the concentration with unanimous support.

The concentration requires students to take Mas-

culinities in International Affairs and either Women in Global Politics or Women and Terrorism. Students enrolled in the concentration must also complete three additional courses that are connected to gender, like Women in Asia, Migration, Gender and International Development and Global Women's Health Lecture.

She added that Elliott has 22 courses on gender in international affairs – more than any other university in the D.C. area.

Graham said classes in the concentration will be taught through a "feminist, intersectional lens" which will expose students to issues relating to women like women in leadership positions and gender-based violence.

"Graduates of this concentration will be able to draw on this analytical framework to explain current and emerging gender issues in international affairs and develop informed arguments and pragmatic policy recommendations in response," Graham said in an email.

Christina Fink, the director of the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science in International Affairs majors, said graduates of the concentration will be able to bring their perspectives in gender to a professional setting in political, economic and social institutions, which will help them work to create a more fair society for those of all genders.

"It enables people to get jobs after they graduate in which they can bring a gen-

der lens to their work in the government or in the development sector and private industry or wherever they may end up," Fink said.

She said gender in an academic setting usually only addresses women, but the focus of concentration is to tackle the challenges all genders face with inequality.

"Addressing gender is about addressing both the challenges and opportunities or barriers to opportunities for men, women and everybody across the gender spectrum," Fink said.

Mona Samadi – an associate professor of religion who teaches Women in Islam, a class within the new Elliott School concentration – said the inclusion of all genders in international affairs decisions can foster "stability" and peace.

"Women and girls represent half of the world's population, but they also represent half of the potential that countries have not taken a good usage of," she said. "Gender equality, besides being a fundamental human right, is also proven that once women get to play a part in deciding how society should function, it leads to more peace, it leads to more potential within that society."

Samadi said gender education is essential to understanding the biases and prejudices that affect how foreign policy is targeted toward certain groups.

"So much has changed, but also at times, it just feels like nothing has changed," Samadi said.

International peace think tank president talks law career, challenges

ALEXANDRA SINGEREANU
REPORTER

The Cisneros Hispanic Leadership Institute hosted the President of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace at the Elliott School for International Affairs Tuesday.

Mariano-Florentino Cuéllar spoke about his journey in becoming a lawyer, a justice in California's Supreme Court and the first Hispanic president of the Carnegie Endowment of International Peace. The event was part of the Diálogos Hispanos Speaker's Series hosted by the Cisneros Hispanic Leadership Institute, with co-hosts GW ESIA Diversity & Inclu-

sion, the Leadership, Ethics and Practice Initiative, the Security Policy Studies program and GW Campus Living & Residential Education.

Cisneros Institute Executive Director Elizabeth Vaquera moderated the event.

Cuéllar said his experience as an immigrant from Mexico with a diverse background helps give listeners a perspective on a "nontraditional" career path.

Cuéllar said it is important for people who want to pursue law as a career to find passion in their work and get creative with the ways they can use their skills. He said he remembered the story of a friend

in law school who wanted to set up a law firm for low-income people in a working-class neighborhood and did so by creating a pizza parlor where people could eat and get legal advice.

Cuéllar said that throughout his work as an associate justice of the California Supreme Court, there were times when his credentials were questioned. Cuéllar said before his confirmation, he faced skepticism from other California court officials.

"I think you could actually stand your ground and think 'I'm gonna be here, because here I am,' and at the same time still disarm people a little bit," Cuéllar said.

Student Court upholds Zidouemba's legitimacy as SA president

ERIKA FILTER
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The Student Court unanimously ruled that Student Association President Christian Zidouemba is the legitimate president and can remain in his position.

Chief Justice Devin Eager, who presented the decision Sunday, said the court unanimously held that only one person can hold any position in the executive cabinet, meaning that neither chief of staff was constitutionally confirmed and invalidating the removal vote. The decision ends a monthlong judicial process through the Student Court addressing constitutional questions that have lingered since late June.

"Today we answer questions resulting from a particular constitutional crisis that caused great confusion and undue controversy," he said.

Eager said the court ruled former acting Chief of Staff Cordelia Scales was never constitutionally confirmed, leaving her no constitutional basis to seek damages.

Eager said the decision to use Article 15 of the SA Constitution, which states that the vice president, legislator general, communications director and treasurer and chief of staff must be present and unanimously vote in favor of removing the SA president.

"We hope that any future invocations of this provision are dealt with in such a manner acknowledging the gravity of the situation, and not the nonchalant, quick and insignificant way such a decision was made in this case," he said. "Each Student Association member owes a duty to the students, the University, alumni and others."

The court also unanimously said the president is permitted to terminate members of their cabinet in the time between a vote to remove the president and the submitting of a letter notifying the chief justice of the vote, but that termination would not affect the results of the vote.

The decision calls the removal attempt and the confusion afterward a period of "helter-skelter" within the SA.

The decision states that because Article 15 dictates the vice president becomes acting president once the letter is submitted, the president does not lose the powers of the office until the letter is submitted.

"This is logical because it would be illogical to have a point in time when there was no President of the Student Association, especially during a tumultuous time like one that would involve the invocation of Article XV, Section 3," the decision reads.

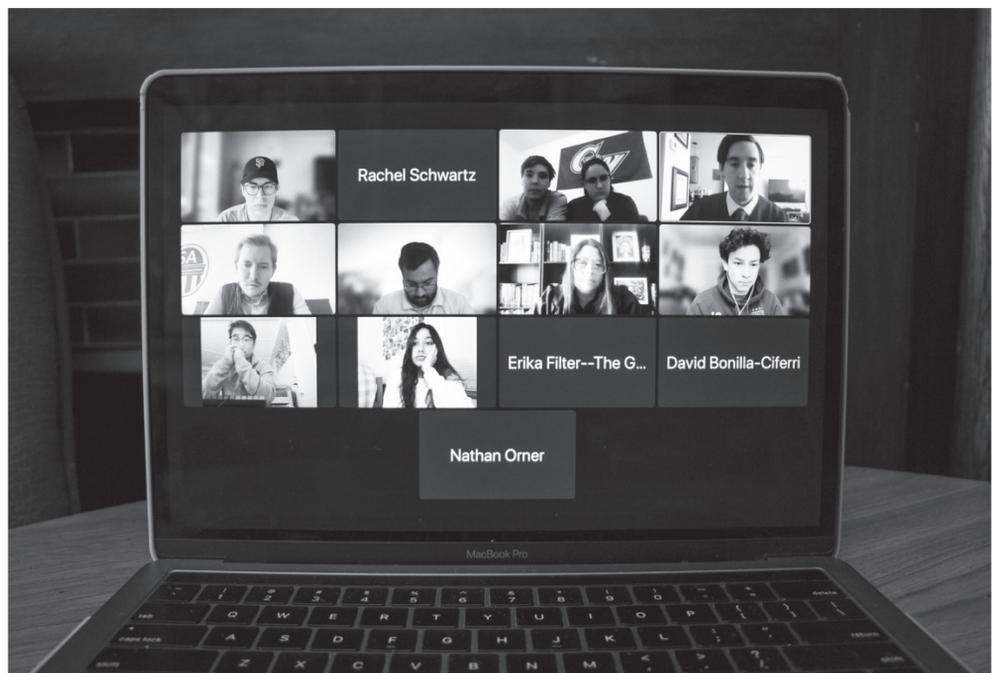
Eager noted that the decision to remove Zidouemba occurred over "an extremely short timeframe."

Andrew Harding, the legislator general, said Keanu Rowe will serve as acting chief of staff until the SA Senate re-confirms him. Zidouemba previously appointed Ishan Lal to serve as deputy chief of staff, so he avoids having two people holding the same position.

Cordelia Scales said Zidouemba "created an unconstitutional situation in the SA." She said the Student Court has "thankfully" recognized the unconstitutional action and "prevented it in the future."

The decision states because the constitution does not refer to multiple "chiefs of staff," only one person can serve in the position.

The decision states that because



RACHEL SCHWARTZ | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR
Chief Justice Devin Eager said the court ruled former acting Chief of Staff Cordelia Scales was never constitutionally confirmed, leaving her no basis to seek damages from Zidouemba.

Scales was not properly confirmed as chief of staff, Zidouemba's attempt to terminate her had no legal effect on Zidouemba or Scales.

The decision states that the attempted removal was "nothing short of embarrassing" for the SA.

Following the power struggle, Zidouemba has continued to serve as president, although at least seven executive cabinet members – including Basescu and Scales – resigned from their positions since July.

On July 14, former chief of staff

Cordelia Scales filed a lawsuit with the Student Court alleging Zidouemba improperly terminated her because he did not have presidential powers in the minutes following his removal vote. In her initial filing, she requested the court declare that Zidouemba is not the legitimate president and that they reinstate her as the chief of staff.

Andrew Harding and Juan Carlos Mora, representing SA President Christian Zidouemba, argued the SA Senate improperly confirmed both Rowe and Scales to the same

position, so neither of them were chief of staff, constitutionally. They argued because neither person served as chief of staff, the removal vote must be considered null.

The court agreed with the defense's argument, saying the SA Senate unconstitutionally confirmed two chiefs of staff.

"As such, we hold that President Zidouemba was never removed from office because Cordelia Scales was never the president's chief of staff," Eager said when delivering the judgment.

Water filter access lowers sugary drink consumption in low-income areas: study

MAX JACKSON
REPORTER

MAX PORTER
REPORTER

A Milken Institute School of Public Health study is raising awareness about how more equitable education about health and sanitation can promote the use of water filters and clean water consumption among low-income Latino communities.

The Water Up!@Home study distributed low-cost tap water filtering pitchers to 92 low-income families from the majority-Latino neighborhood of Langley Park, Maryland in 2019, and an experimental group of half the families received educational information about tap water and the health consequences of sugar-sweetened beverages. The study shows greater access to clean water can decrease the consumption of sugary drinks, which is more common among racial minorities than non-Hispanic white people.

Uriyoán Colón-Ramos – an associate professor of exercise and nutritional sciences in Milken and the study’s lead researcher – said families in the intervention group consumed fewer sugary drinks, like soda and fruit juice, than families in the control group. Colón-Ramos said the results were “surprising” because no scientist before had discovered a connection between water

insecurity and sugary drink consumption in an intervention study with a control and intervention group.

She said she received a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the mid-2010s to conduct a community-based study on nutrition in Langley Park, Maryland, but she didn’t know what the study would focus on until families told her they didn’t drink much tap water. She said her team conducted interviews with participants to assess their tap water and sugary drink consumption and determine if the filters and educational interventions decreased their sugary drink consumption.

“One of the things that came up during the interviews was that none of the families drank tap water,” Colón-Ramos said.

She said many citizens of Langley Park did not trust the tap water in their homes because they think the water’s cleanliness is under-regulated. Colón-Ramos said the interviews with the participants concluded that distrust in tap water was one of the main causes for sugary drink consumption in Langley Park.

“We need to start thinking about if we’re telling people not to drink sugary drinks, then we need to make sure that there is an alternative or else we’re going to create an even larger disparity,” Colón-Ramos said.

Minority groups, like those in Langley Park, spend 16 percent more on bottled water than non-Hispanic whites do instead of filtering their tap water due to their distrust in the tap water, according to the Milken study. Claudia Santillan-Vasquez, a research assistant for the study, said her role was to interview the participants about their thoughts on the study and how the water filter affected their daily lives. She said participants in the intervention group said they started reading food item labels in grocery stores after partaking in the study and increased their water consumption with the addition of a water filter.

Santillan-Vasquez said the families in the study who received educational interventions about clean water spent less money on bottled drinks and started to make Latin American-based drinks like frescos at home to eliminate their consumption of harmful preservatives outlined in the education.

The study found the difference in sugary drink consumption between the control and intervention groups was not statistically significant, but families who received the educational intervention decreased their fruit juice consumption more than the families who did not receive the intervention.

Experts in public health and pediatrics said access to clean water reduces the



HATCHET FILE PHOTO
Uriyoán Colón-Ramos said mistrust in public tap water correlates to low-income Latino families’ increased sugary drink consumption.

risk of negative health impacts like obesity, metabolic syndrome and insulin resistance, and widespread awareness about clean water can help promote public health equity across the country.

Jeffrey Griffiths, a professor of public health and community medicine at Tufts University, said the “aesthetic” of tap water, like taste, odor and color, impacts people’s perception of its quality and makes them less likely to consume their tap water.

Griffiths said recent water access studies have

shown increased violations of the Safe Drinking Water Act, which Congress passed in 1974 to protect drinking water, in underserved communities like poor areas, rural communities and indigenous communities.

Water pipes corroded and contaminated the water supply with lead in Flint, Michigan in 2014 after city officials changed the city’s water supply from Lake Huron to the Flint River in April 2014.

Anisha Patel, an associate professor of pediatrics at Stanford University, said providing water filters to

low-income Latino families can change their perception of tap water from unsafe to clean. She said getting families to switch from bottled beverages to a filter also decreases costs for the family and the environment.

“I would think if you’re able to use a filter to get families to consume water instead of sugary beverages, it could be a huge one in the long term in terms of health consequences and also the economical and climate consequences of switching over from the bottles to a filter,” Patel said.

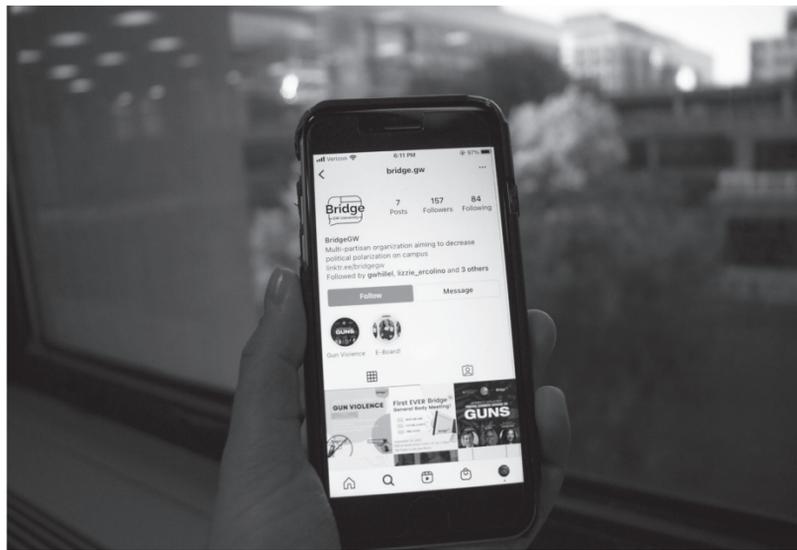


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY AUDEN YURMAN | SENIOR PHOTO EDITOR
BridgeGW’s leaders said they plan to organize student discussions and speaker events on topics of public interest during the upcoming year as a way to continue expanding membership.

Multi-partisan student organization working to combat polarization

BARRY YAO
REPORTER

BROOKE FORGETTE
REPORTER

A multi-partisan student organization will work to foster civil political discourse and limit polarization through moderated conversations with students and guest speakers across the political spectrum this fall.

Dedicated to combating the “toxicity” surrounding political discussions through constructive conversation, BridgeGW – a chapter of the nonprofit BridgeUSA – hopes to bring the national organization’s mission of embracing students’ political differences to GW’s campus during its first semester. BridgeGW’s leaders said the organization has nearly 100 members whom they’ve recruited since the start of the semester and plan to host discussions with students and events with speakers on topics of public interest during the upcoming year as a way to continue expanding membership.

Sophomore Manraj Multani, the president of BridgeGW, said he was motivated to bring the organization to campus as a freshman after he noticed many students unwilling to consider opinions contrasting with their own in political science classes and discussions. He said BridgeGW’s mission is to encourage all students to share their own political opinions while opening their minds to differing perspectives.

“No one wants to hear one another’s opinions, regardless,” Multani said. “And that prompted a little bit of a change, and I had an idea.”

Multani said the multi-partisan organization worked with the Nashman Center for Civic Engagement and Public Service and Common Ground Committee – a Connecticut-based nonprofit dedicated to reducing polarization – to co-host their first event this semester called “Finding a Common Ground on Guns,” with guest speakers Sen. Chris Murphy, D-CT, and former Republican Rep. Will Hurd of Texas.

Murphy and Hurd spoke to students in the School of Media and Public Affairs last Thursday about the impact that language and legislation like the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act have on gun safety issues, which was moderated by CBS News correspondent Jacqueline Adams.

Multani said BridgeGW won’t host another large-scale event like its first one until next semester, but the organization plans to hold smaller, student-led discussions biweekly driven by a specific topic.

“With the way moderation works, that I’ve been telling the executive board, how we agree on it is if one side is kind of getting really kind of blown out by an overwhelming majority, we’ll help them out,” Multani said.

Sophomore Sophie Holtzman, the co-vice president of BridgeGW, said the University approved the organization during the spring 2022 semester following a yearlong evaluation in which staff told the organization their ideas seemed “very similar” to other political organizations on campus.

Holtzman said although the University’s New Organization Committee first

deferred BridgeGW’s proposal during the fall 2021 semester, BridgeGW emphasized its unique goals to promote the healthy exchange of opinions and represent all ends of the political spectrum fairly to secure the committee’s approval.

Sophomore Sklyer Sieradzky, the communications director of BridgeGW, said the organization hopes to host biweekly discussions covering various timely and relevant topics, ranging from the change of GW’s moniker to the reversal of Roe v. Wade.

Sieradzky said BridgeGW takes a “multi-partisan” approach as an attempt to create a space where everyone has a chance to express their own political opinions without the fear of backlash.

Sophomore Jacoby Sypher, the co-vice president of BridgeGW, said the organization contains numerous members from both College Democrats and College Republicans. He said the overarching message of each of these meetings is its form as a discussion, not a debate.

“A lot of us have been in a number of political organizations, both the College Democrats and College Republicans, so you have those views represented,” Sypher said.

Sypher said BridgeGW is open to all students who are interested in joining, regardless of political affiliation and encourages members to come with a flexible perspective to learn from others’ views.

“Come with an open mind and willingness to not only listen, but if you have something you think is important to say, feel free,” Sypher said.

International students celebrate cultural diversity at Kogan Plaza

CAPUCINE BOURBIER
REPORTER

Members of the GW community celebrated international cultures, nationalities and ethnicities in Kogan Plaza Friday.

The International Students Association and the International Services Office hosted the relaunched annual “World Tour” event that highlights ethnic and cultural organizations across GW for an afternoon that showcased traditional food, dances and forms of art. The event featured student organizations like the Chinese Cultural Association, the Philippine Cultural Society and the Azerbaijani Student Association.

Sare Arpacı, the vice president of the ISA and a sophomore international student from Turkey, said the focus of the event was to make international students feel at home through the celebration of their customs and traditions.

“This event is basically to showcase other performances, orgs, folklore and dances so that other international students can feel at home here,” Arpacı said.

Nora Bergström, a junior majoring in international affairs and politics and an exchange student originally from Sweden, said the event was a good opportunity for both international and domestic students to learn more about international cultures they may not know about.

“I’ve never seen this many international people gathered at GW in one

place,” Bergström said. “I think it’s nice to see. And, obviously, for the Americans, it’s nice that they can go to the Turkish stand and you know, learn more about Turkey if they haven’t been and I think it is good to have for educational purposes.”

Bergström, a member of the International Students Association, said there were organizations representing countries and cultures she didn’t expect to be at the event, like the Azerbaijani Student Association.

“There’s definitely some countries that I didn’t expect to be here,” Bergström said. “I didn’t think that there would be such a big student population from Azerbaijan, for example. So, I’m intrigued by that.”

Brielle Boyd, a freshman studying international affairs, said while she is not an international student, she lived overseas in the past and the event gave her a chance to connect with people.

“I’ve lived in those countries during my developmental years, so those are like home to me,” Boyd said. “So, it’s kind of nice to make connections with people.”

Boyd also said the event provided students with exposure to countries and cultures some community members may not know about.

“There’s so many different countries being represented that some people probably haven’t heard of before, which is kind of sad,” Boyd said. “But it’s cool to see a little bit of exposure, but a little bit is better than nothing.”

Students work to support hurricane victims with emergency aid

From Page 1

Florida search and rescue team members have performed 2,500 rescues to date, and the government has restored power to nearly 2.6 million customers across the state, according to a release from Florida Governor Ron DeSantis. The Florida government also worked to provide 12.7 million meals and 45.9 million bottles of water to impacted residents.

As the remnants of the hurricane approached the mid-Atlantic, the University sent an email to campus residents late last month with contact information in the event of residence hall flooding or leaks as well as Counseling and Psychological Services resources for students with family members in affected areas.

“I wasn’t there to experience it with the rest of them,” Brown said. “I was living in D.C. over the summer as well. It’s been a while since I’ve been home. It sucks, especially because I haven’t seen it for myself. To go back to

my hometown where I grew up and it could be completely different is a little scary.”

Junior Helena Betancourt, a native of San Juan, Puerto Rico, said it was jarring to be away from home while Hurricane Fiona hit her hometown as a Category 4 hurricane last month, a few weeks before Hurricane Ian struck Florida.

Betancourt said she received a personal email from the GW CARE Team in late September after Hurricane Fiona’s landfall in Puerto Rico, detailing support services on standby for students from impacted communities.

“This was my first time having to deal with a hurricane away from home so it definitely did feel like I could have done something,” Betancourt said. “I just didn’t know how to do something from over here.”

Betancourt started her own organization late last month called Re-Cycle, which collects menstrual product donations for hurricane relief in Puerto Rico with funding from the Nashman Center for Civic Engagement and Public

Service with students at the University of Puerto Rico. She said the organization focuses its work on raising money to supply residents in affected areas of Puerto Rico with menstrual pads and tampons while they deal with the destruction of the storm.

“We are going to be holding a fundraiser for getting specifically menstrual pads and tampons to communities in the South, which were primarily affected by the hurricane and distributing those products,” Betancourt said. “We haven’t seen a lot of emphasis on that and we just figured these are essential products.”

Betancourt said her family lost water and power before regaining them a few days later, but many areas west and south of Betancourt’s native city of San Juan still don’t have access to power or running water in the aftermath of the hurricane.

“I definitely think that local organizations run by students are doing a lot of helpful efforts like fundraisers but not necessarily the people in positions of power,” Betancourt said.

Opinions

WHAT THE UNIVERSITY WON'T TALK ABOUT THIS WEEK

Board of Trustees Chair Grace Speights declined to discuss the state of GW with The Hatchet. p. 1

FROM GWHATCHET.COM/OPINIONS

"My major isn't the most important thing about me — it's a tool that I can use to explore my interests and make a life for myself."

— TERRA PITCH-BISSON on 10/06/2022

GW should select the mighty Hippopotamus for its next moniker

STAFF EDITORIAL

Though the clock is ticking to determine the University's next moniker by the 2023-24 academic year, the consensus that GW needs to move past its divisive former moniker hasn't made it easier to decide on a new one. With suggestions for the new name ranging from Revolutionaries to Riverhorses, officials will have plenty of options to choose from. Now, we're throwing our support behind GW's next moniker — take off your tricorn hats and say hello to the Hippos.

Our favorite mammalian moniker is already popular with the student body. And Hippopotamuses, or Hippos for short, is everything that Colonials wasn't — it's divorced from the ugly history of colonialism and racism that marked our use of Colonials. The hippo has already found its way into students' hearts, whether as the statue outside Lisner Auditorium or on GW-branded merchandise across campus. By picking Hippos as the University's next moniker, officials can create a campus culture in which everyone feels welcome and bolster GW's school spirit in years to come.

A 21st-century university deserves something better than a 20th-century distortion of 18th-century history. In a period of racially tinged nostalgia for the American Revolution, a single administrator picked Colonials in 1926 to replace other nicknames that students previously used to describe themselves. The new moniker's meaning wasn't lost on students — fraternities and residence hall associations decorated their lawns with GW Colonials slaughtering William and Mary Indians for the football team's 1946 homecoming game. The Colonials moniker carried GW through the last century, but it's grossly out of touch today.

That brings us to Hippos, which are expressly apolitical. The University's love of the hippo began when

former University President Stephen Joel Trachtenberg gifted the now-iconic hippo statue that stands at the corner of H and 21st streets to the Class of 2000. Unlike Colonials, which was foisted upon the University community, students have made the hippo their own. Some 20 years later, they've literally left their mark on the hippo, rubbing its

bronze tusks and ears out of admiration and for good luck.

Even as GW has continued to "hail to the Buff and Blue" in recent years, the hippo hasn't been far behind. Officials are well aware of the grip that the hippo has on campus, from its appearance at campus events, in promotions and on merchandise sold in the campus store.

BREAKING NEWS

HIPPO SPEAKS TO GW ADMIN



MAURA KELLY-YUOH | STAFF CARTOONIST

that's a cheap move both financially and morally. If the inventory in the campus store remains practically the same pre- and post-Colonials, then what good did the moniker change accomplish?

And like Colonials, these historically inspired monikers ignore the facts in favor of a flashy brand name. Aside from a visit from the French military leader Marquis de Lafayette in 1824 and Columbian College's namesake change in 1904, GW doesn't boast deep historic ties to the American Revolution. Nor do these names set GW apart — George Mason University uses Patriots for their athletic teams across state lines, not to mention the NFL team out of New England. Revolutionaries might celebrate students' commitment to political change, and Patriots or Generals could honor GW's military students and alumni, but their close association with politics and war would likely subject them to the same scrutiny as Colonials.

Unlike Colonials or these other monikers, Hippos can be a symbol for students to rally around on game days or events that require no reckoning with history. It's a mascot that can trot out at half time without making national news. And most of all, it's something that can bring every member of the GW community together.

If this discussion amounts to overanalyzing GW's moniker, then we've done our job. And we hope officials will be just as careful in their considerations. This University has known the Colonials moniker for nearly 100 years of change, from the highs of the roaring 1920s to the lows of our not-so-roaring 2020s. Let's replace it with the Hippopotamuses, a name that can truly last through the next century.

Officials have a chance to pick a moniker that encapsulates GW's values and vision for the foreseeable future — don't mess it up.

GW should upgrade mail services so students can cast their votes

With the 2022 midterm elections approaching, time is running out for absentee voters to send in their ballots. Out-of-state students must receive and send a ballot via mail to our home state to cast our vote. Students must send or postmark their ballots by Election Day depending on their home state laws to make sure they count. But with an inefficient system standing in the way, GW's Mail and Postal Services is threatening to stifle the student vote.

Riley Goodfellow
Contributing Opinions Editor

Most residence halls only have physical mailboxes that require a key or lock combination to open, creating a delayed and extremely inconvenient system. To open a mailbox, students in Amsterdam Hall must walk five blocks to the Key Depot and retrieve their key before returning it later. But without any notification system, residents won't know if the round trip is worth the hassle until they crack their mailbox open. Even worse, the time it takes to receive postal services is abysmal — I once watched my friend open a Christmas card in February.

We cannot wait for our absentee ballots to collect dust in mailboxes or package stacks for weeks on end, especially as critical state deadlines near. The

University clearly does not respect students' time enough to facilitate mail delivery. Students deserve a reliable mailing system with a proper notification process and technological update that allows them to meet their states' deadlines. During one of the most controversial and impactful elections in recent history, every one of us needs to make sure our voice is heard. GW should seize Election Day as an opportunity to rectify an outdated system and ensure students have a way to cast their ballots.

GW should update all residence halls with mail systems like the electronic lockers in Shenkman Hall to ensure students receive the reliable postal services they deserve. I currently live in Shenkman and simply pick up my mail and packages anytime I am on my way up to my room. Lockers line the lobby of my residence hall, where students can punch a PIN into a digital screen that opens the appropriate locker containing their mail. All students deserve the same hassle-free experience, no matter where they live.

GW should help make students' mail voting experience as seamless as possible. Transitioning to adulthood is difficult enough, so the least the University can do is provide the postal services necessary for students to exercise their basic right to vote. If my mailbox remained empty after several trips to the Key Depot while waiting for a delivery, I would not be

hopeful about ordering an absentee ballot. Installing updated lockers in residence halls would eliminate the journey students take to Key Depot and reduce the workload of Key Depot employees. At an institution that teaches and prioritizes the importance of civic engagement, reliable voting systems should already be in place for its students.

Extreme delays in receiving paper mail is also an issue for other crucial mail and basic communication. Students are losing essential money, documents and possessions — all on top of their ability to vote. The solution is easily achievable — space already exists for electronic lockers to replace manual mailboxes in residence hall lobbies, and upgrading the technology would ensure that all essential mail arrives in a timely manner.

I was immediately confused when I heard from friends that they were worried about their absentee ballots arriving in time — my easy access to postal services allowed me to completely overlook the possibility of a delayed absentee ballot. If I wanted my absentee ballot to arrive months late, I would send it with a pigeon or ship it in a bottle across the ocean. Students deserve to exercise their right to vote, and GW should not uphold any services that discourage new voters from doing so.

—Riley Goodfellow, a sophomore majoring in political science, is the contributing opinions editor.

GW should make composting more accessible to enhance sustainability

When I first came to GW this August, I was shocked to find only two main options to dispose of waste on campus — trash and recycling. While GW has pledged its commitment to sustainability, composting remains a fundamental piece missing from its approach. Making compost bins as accessible as trash and recycling around campus would allow GW to significantly reduce the amount of waste that it sends to landfills and reduce the carbon footprint of the University.

Anaya Bhatt
Opinions Writer

After growing up with composting bins on every corner in California, I was expecting the same kind of accessibility here in D.C. Living in a state where wildfires run rampant and droughts are nearly constant has taught me to be mindful of how tossing food scraps and other compostable materials in the trash can damage the planet. But without this environmental awareness and unless officials place opportunities to compost right in front of us, students are not going to make the effort to learn about our composting system — let alone use it.

So what does it mean to compost? Compost is organic material consisting mainly of food and yard waste, as well as certain cardboard

and paper materials, that can be added to soil to help cultivate plants. These products belong in compost facilities where they can be repurposed as fertilizer, not in the trash heap.

Such landfills are the country's third largest producer of methane, a greenhouse gas 86 times more potent than carbon dioxide, which contributes heavily to global warming. Composting significantly limits the greenhouse gas emissions of decomposing materials.

The University's composting system has a very small impact on reducing trash. Students can drop off their compost at the GW Compost table at Kogan Plaza, which operates in a one-to-three-hour window six days a week. While I can appreciate the option for students to compost, the University is simply appeasing environmentalists on campus. If officials wanted to actively limit waste, then compost bins would be just as accessible as garbage cans across campus.

If it's easier to toss waste in the trash or recycling than in the compost bin, then students won't go out of their way to compost. Those with the willpower to compost their waste might collect and store their food scraps until they have the time to walk their bag of rotting food to the Kogan Plaza table. But for students who live on the Mount Vernon Campus, the journey to Kogan will hardly ever be worth it.

GW should provide students with freely accessible compost bins, especially in residence halls, dining venues and other food-handling locations with the highest volume of potential compost. Two compost bins are currently stationed on campus at District House and the University Student Center, but they should be just as widespread as trash cans, located in every building on every floor. GW can also partner with local nonprofits like Compost Crew, which collects and transfers food scraps from homes, businesses and schools to proper management facilities around the DMV.

More accessible compost facilities and better education on composting around campus can make GW a more sustainable school. The University needs to encourage students to change their daily practices to limit greenhouse gas emissions and avoid overflowing landfills. Considering the fact that a University-wide change reaches tens of thousands of students, even a small shift in attitudes and behaviors can be incredibly beneficial in reducing the amount of waste GW produces. The more waste students divert from landfills, the better chance we have of preserving the environment we call home.

—Anaya Bhatt, a freshman majoring in political communications, is an opinions writer.

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Submissions — Deadlines for submissions are Friday 5 p.m. for Monday issues. They must include the author's name, title, year in school and phone number. The GW Hatchet does not guarantee publication and reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, grammar and clarity. Submit to opinions@gwhatchet.com

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Culture

THE SCENE

DEMI LOVATO CONCERT
Monday, Oct. 10 | The Anthem | \$70
See Demi Lovato on her "HOLY FVCK" tour as she performs fan-favorite tracks, including hit songs from her Disney Channel days.

COMEDY & COCKTAILS
Thursday, Oct. 13 | Pure Lounge | \$15
Attend a lively comedy concert while enjoying two-for-one drinks and laughing along to local talents from the DMV.

RELEASED THIS WEEK:

NEW SINGLE: "DIFFICULT" BY GRACIE ABRAMS

PHOTO ESSAY: STUDENT MUSICIANS



COURTESY OF SOPHIE MOTEN



DANIELLE TOWERS | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR



RACHEL SCHWARTZ | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR



ERIN LEONE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

For more: GWHATCHET.COM

Ukrainian artist to guest choreograph at Corcoran Fall Dance Concert

ISABELLA MACKINNON
STAFF WRITER

A choreographer and performer from Kiev, Ukraine with a robust body of international artistic work to his name is bringing his expertise to the District this semester to guest choreograph for the Corcoran School of the Arts and Design's Fall Dance Concert from November 17 to 19.

Anton Ovchinnikov's piece for the concert next month will feature six students and three pieces of music, a Ukrainian folk song and two pieces of "electronic jazz contemporary" music, he said. For the piece's contemporary choreography, a collaboration between himself and his students, he said he drew inspiration from the idea of unspoken words between people who once knew each other, but now are strangers.

"This was my idea, to explain to them what it is about, and now they can reflect this topic through their own bodies in their own choreography," Ovchinnikov said.

Ovchinnikov said he met Corcoran dance professor Maida Withers when they connected in a dance class in Moscow twenty years ago, and years later, in 2018, they collaborated on a piece titled 60 MOVES with FUTURE GAZE. This work explored their shared choreographic style of post-modernism, a movement with roots in modern dance that aims to push the boundaries of the conventional dance world through individuality, which influences much of Anton's choreographic work.

Ovchinnikov and Withers created 60 MOVES with FUTURE GAZE for the 60th anniversary of the National Exhibition Center of Ukraine, a building the Soviet Union constructed in 1949. Ovchinnikov said he and Withers drew inspiration from the juxtaposition of the Ukrainian dancers and the Soviet architecture, styling the dancer's movements so that they interacted directly with the building, weaving around the grand, neoclassical columns and down the wide staircase.

"All the dancers who participated in the performance were born after Ukraine became independent," Ovchinnikov said. "So it was a kind of new generation that had never been living in the Soviet Union."

Ovchinnikov visited GW in 2019 for the first time to teach choreography to Corcoran dance students at Withers' invitation, as the two remained in touch. Having returned to



COURTESY OF ANTON OVCHINNIKOV

Ovchinnikov works as a professional choreographer, producing pieces for international festivals and serving as artistic director for his company, Black O!Range Dance Theatre.

the District again, Ovchinnikov performed an original piece Friday at the opening of LEGACY: Fifty Years of Dance on the Edge, a celebration of Withers' career at the gallery at the Corcoran.

Ovchinnikov said he admires the dance program at Corcoran for giving students the opportunity to pursue academic majors in addition to dance, affording them "a much wider vision of the world." He taught choreography at the Kiev National University of Culture and Arts, where he also earned degrees in theater direction and choreography, for more than 10 years.

In addition to teaching, Ovchinnikov works as a professional choreographer, producing pieces for international festivals and serving as artistic director for his company, Black O!Range Dance Theatre. Ovchinnikov established the company in 2005 and works mainly with students and fellow alumni of the National University of Culture and Arts.

Ovchinnikov brings a vibrant range of experiences to his dancers from his career spent presenting his work at festivals across Europe and collaborating with fellow creatives like Withers. Before arriving in D.C. this fall, he said he spent two months traveling to dance festivals and artistic forums in countries like Lithuania, Hungary and Germany to perform original choreography and present Monochrome, the dance film he created this year.

Monochrome is a 15-minute feature film and edited by Ovchinnikov as an expression of the "depression and despair" of his home country after Russian troops invaded in February. The film opens in black and white, revealing

Ovchinnikov dancing alone in a shallow pond to electronic-style music of his own composition while color slowly sets in.

"After the war started, I had not been dancing for six weeks or two months or something like that because I didn't feel like I could dance," Ovchinnikov said. "And then right away, I decided to create this film and because I started dancing again, I really felt that it brought me back to living. So it was the idea that dance can bring back this feeling of the world to have colors."

Ovchinnikov said he has been able to travel internationally as an artist during the conflict with permission from the Ukrainian Minister of Culture and Information Policy. He said the Ukrainian government has supported artists like himself who have presented their artistic expressions of the Ukrainian cause to raise support and awareness of the war abroad.

At home in Ukraine, the artistic community has faced devastating losses and many artists have left Ukraine, seeking safety and work, he said. However, those that remain have used their work "as a weapon" to create an artistic outlet for civilians and throw festivals for all mediums of art to raise funds for the Ukrainian army.

"Most of the works were created after the war started and reflect the situation and the feelings of the people, sometimes something that happened in the past destroyed cities and villages, so everything which can especially give motivation for people to continue to live in Ukraine and create and also to have this feeling of community again," Ovchinnikov said.

Try this diverse mix of gluten-friendly restaurants around the District

AUDREY SCOTT
REPORTER

JENNIFER IGBONBA
REPORTER

Finding a place to eat can be difficult, but discovering one without any protein in everyday food like cereal and pasta can make the hunt for gluten-free options in D.C. a seemingly impossible challenge.

But as the gluten-free diet increases in popularity for its digestive health benefits, restaurants are finding more ways to best accommodate customers who do not eat gluten. Spanning cultures and neighborhoods, we picked five gluten-free and celiac-friendly restaurants throughout the District for you to try, whether you're a gluten fan or not.

Rise Bakery

Located in Adams Morgan, the 100 percent gluten-free restaurant – yes, you heard us right – packs a full menu of gluten-free treats, from pastries like red velvet cupcakes (\$3.5) to grilled paninis (\$8.5 to \$13.5). The four-inch pumpkin cheesecake (\$5.95) drew me in with a white latte-like swirl on top, and I ultimately went with the appetizing dish in honor of the autumnal season.

The pumpkin and vanilla cheesecake layers were thick

and a little creamy, satisfying me after only a few bites. The ginger molasses cookie base carried the dish with a semi-sweet flavor and ginger aftertaste.

For gluten-free breads, cakes and pizzas, Rise Bakery provides an appetizing excuse to skip out on dorm baking in exchange for some freshly made delights. Prices were mostly hanging below \$5 for pastries.

2409 18th St. NW. Open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday and Sunday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Zenebech Restaurant

Across the street from Rise Bakery, Zenebech Restaurant offers staple Ethiopian dishes like tibs – an assortment of lean cubes of meat sautéed with vegetables and spices – and kitfo – a minced entrée prepared with a chili pepper blend and spiced clarified butter.

For cuisine that tends to lean gluten free, Zenebech restaurant is a top choice to check out. I ordered doro wot (\$16) – a spicy chicken stew prepared in a chili pepper sauce and spiced butter along with a hard-boiled egg. The dish had a side of injera – a staple sour, spongy bread in Ethiopian cuisine – with two veggie sides, gomen (\$3.5), freshly cooked collard greens, and mesir (\$3.5), a stew of spicy red lentils.

Once I saw oil on the classic plastic "thank you" bag for my to-go meal, I knew the food was ethnic and authentic. The gomen's flavor felt a bit absent, but the spiciness and zesty punch from the doro wot and mesir balanced out the meal.

2420 18th St. NW. Open Monday through Thursday from 5 to 10 p.m., Friday through Sunday from 1 to 10 p.m.

Pizzeria Paradiso

Over Alumni & Families Weekend, I visited a nostalgic pizza restaurant from my childhood days and was excited to discover they are gluten-friendly, with gluten-free pizza crust.

Pizzeria Paradiso, located in Dupont Circle on P Street, offers a relaxed and family-friendly bar and seating area. I ordered a Bosco pizza (\$15 for 9 inches) on a gluten-free crust, topped with spinach, mozzarella, tomatoes and onions alongside an Insalata Romana salad (\$11).

The pizza's flavor was dynamic, both sweet and savory, as the light acidity from the vegetables blended together with the melted mozzarella. The pizza's crust was hands down the best gluten-free pizza crust I have ever tasted, presenting the same elasticity and lightness as a normal crust, but not as crumbly or dry as lots of other gluten-free items.



KIMBERLY COURTNEY | PHOTOGRAPHER

The curry flavor of Soi 38's gaeng hang lay was vibrant with just a hint of spice, and the pork belly was more mild and fatty in flavor.

2003 P St. NW. Open Monday through Wednesday from 4 to 9 p.m., Thursday from noon to 9 p.m., Friday and Saturday from noon to 10 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 9 p.m.

Soi 38

The final spot I visited was Soi 38, a Thai restaurant inspired by the Bangkok street district of the same name and known for its underground street cuisine. A sultry environment complete with dim lighting, striking wall paintings and big bam-

boo lamps that descended from the ceiling absorbed me as I entered the building.

As another cuisine that centers around gluten-free ingredients, Thai restaurants are not an option to skip out on within the D.C. dining scene, especially not Soi 38. The menu denotes a vast array of gluten-free options in each section of the menu. I ordered gaeng hang lay (\$19), a slow-roasted pork belly served in Thai curry with fresh ginger on top and a side of sticky rice. The curry

flavor was vibrant with just a hint of spice, and the pork belly, more mild and fatty in flavor, melted in my mouth.

For dessert, I ordered the khao neaw mamuang (\$9), a dish of sweet sticky rice and coconut milk with warm mango sliced on the side. I would go back to Soi 38 just for the khao neaw mamuang – the treat was light, fresh and not too sweet.

2101 L St. NW. Open Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Saturday and Sunday from noon to 10 p.m.

Sports

GAMES OF THE WEEK



WOMEN'S SOCCER
vs. Bonaventure
Thursday | 3 p.m. EDT
GW continues its search for a conference victory as the Colonials welcome the Bonnies to their home turf.



VOLLEYBALL
vs. Fordham
Friday | 6 p.m. EDT
The Colonials take on the Rams in the Smith Center as they look to build on their five-match win streak.

NUMBER CRUNCH .714

Volleyball's conference winning percentage, up from its five-year average of .296.

Volleyball opposite powering offense toward playoffs with laser vision

LUKE WIENECKE
STAFF WRITER

With a spike of the volleyball from junior opposite Liv Womble, no unguarded pocket of the court is safe.

Womble, one of volleyball's nine returning Colonials, steered the team to an 11-9 record while exploiting the opposing team's weaknesses in the court's empty corners with in-game shot adjustments that power the team's offense. The 2022 season has proven to be Womble's first full regular season as a collegiate player after COVID-19 paused her freshman season and disrupted spurts of her sophomore season, a development she hopes will culminate in an Atlantic 10 Championship run.

Head Coach Katie Reifert said Womble has special vision to identify her opponent's defensive front and take advantage of her hits throughout the match to ensure a win.

"Liv's a competitor, she loves to compete, and winning drives her," Reifert said. "It's really precious, it's fun to have her in the gym as a great energy source and competitor. As I was talking about before, Liv is very knowledgeable of our opponents, she studies up on who we're playing next so that she can really expose their weaknesses."

Unlike most college athletes, volleyball was not an integral part of Womble's early sports career. Womble – who grew up in Wilmington, North Carolina – pursued track and basketball in grade school before joining the volleyball team in high school after a friend decided to try out

for the team.

During her high school career, she achieved two All-District and All-Region honors at Robinson Secondary and went on to commit to GW to continue her volleyball career. After playing nearly every position in high school, Womble said she had trouble adjusting to college play her freshman year.

"When I first got here because when I was in high school, even in my position, I played all the way around," Womble said. "It was a little bit different, like the speed of the game is vastly different when you get to college."

She said she also struggled to regain her strength after losing muscle when the pandemic halted her freshman volleyball season, when the team only played 10 of its 16 scheduled matches in 2020. But Womble has adapted to the mental and physical aspects of collegiate volleyball with craftiness on the court, often faking the spike and tapping it over the net to dupe defenders.

"I would say she's a very knowledgeable player," Reifert said. "She is really gifted at seeing what's in front of her and adjusting her shots and her swings to really take advantage of the situation."

Womble said Reifert's entry to the program this year and the new coaching staff that joined have helped fuel her winning mentality and evolution as a player. She said the coaching staff makes sure the team spends unfiltered time together and has rules like the "no phone policy" during team meals. She said Reifert prioritizes the team's mentality and tries to boost morale for games and practices.

"She just told us that you're only going to get as much joy as



ALLISON ROBBERT | PHOTOGRAPHER

Womble said her goal for the season is to make the A-10 Championship or the All-Conference team and see her team succeed at the tournament level.

you put in," Womble said. "That kind of mentality spreads onto the court, spreads into the bench, spreads into practice."

Womble said her teammates have also played an integral role in the 2022 season as they look to support her play on and off the court during tough matches when she puts too much pressure on herself to lead the team's offense. She said the team demands high-quality play from each other, which helps drive them throughout the season to continue

winning.

"I think competitiveness always walks a very fine line of how you approach it," Womble said. "There's healthy competitiveness, and there's sometimes toxic competitiveness. And I dabble in both areas sometimes, but I really do like to push my teammates as well as by demanding of them but leading by more of an example."

Womble said her personal goal for the season is to make the A-10 Championship or the All-Conference team and see her team

succeed at the tournament level. She said she's more interested in making progress as a team through the development of their six freshman players, who continue to work on hitting their goals in practice.

"Our goal was win everything that we can and be the best that we can and make sure that we've prepared ourselves to go into that," Womble said. "She calls it battle, she prepares us to go into a battle every time we go into a game."

Hispanic tennis players hit stride with cultural support on and off the court

OWEN AVERILL
REPORTER

Tennis has always been a way of life for sophomore Alejandra Ramirez and junior Gabby Giraldo, but the cultural backdrop of their athletic careers hasn't always translated to the court.

Ramirez, a second-generation Mexican American, and Giraldo, a native Colombian, have navigated a predominantly white playing field in the United States despite carrying cultural roots that have molded their athletic careers. As the only two Hispanic athletes on GW's seven-player tennis roster, Ramirez and Giraldo have risen to integral roles on the team, securing two of GW's three places in the regional Bedford Cup Finals earlier this month, where Ramirez took second place in singles and Giraldo earned first place in doubles.

Now under the leadership of Head Coach George Rodriguez, who filled the position at GW in August and shares a Hispanic background, the two said they have found a home with the tennis program and "dad feel" in Rodriguez. During Hispanic Heritage Month, The GW Hatchet is profiling Ramirez and Giraldo

attended the same boarding school – Boca Prep International School in Boca Raton, Florida, which specializes in athletic training, including a strong tennis program – during their high school years. Ramirez arrived at GW for her freshman year, but Giraldo took a detour to the University of Houston for two years, where she attained a 19-12 singles record and earned singles crowns at the Texas Regional and the international Universal Tennis Rating Tournament.

Ramirez earned a 1-5 record for GW last season in the singles category but ranked among the top 1,200 worldwide tennis players by the International Tennis Federation. She said she struggled to keep in touch with her culture during her freshman year with a predominately non-Hispanic roster but found a larger Hispanic community across campus through student organizations, like the Organization of Latin American Students, to make her feel at home.

She said she misses the family-oriented nature of Hispanic culture, like when her grandparents would visit Texas from their hometown in Reynosa, Mexico and she would eat traditional dishes like

pozole – a Mexican soup that has seasoned meat and garnished with lettuce, onions and garlic.

Ramirez said her father, a former Division III tennis player, inspired her to pursue her own tennis career, and she's living out his dream of playing at the Division I level. She said she started playing tennis at the age of five, and she has not been able to drop the racket since.

When Giraldo moved from Colombia to Florida as a 16-year-old to continue her academic and tennis careers at boarding school, she struggled to find her place so far away from home and the comfort of her family. Now at GW, Giraldo said the University has offered a support system through its Latino community, and she returns home during breaks in the school year to see her family and friends in Colombia, which she holds "really close to her heart."

Giraldo has represented the national Colombian team in the Regional and World Championships in the 2022 season. Rodriguez said Giraldo has modeled the fight and commitment that he looks to set as the recruitment standard for the team in the coming seasons.



FILE PHOTO BY AUDEN YURMAN | SENIOR PHOTO EDITOR

GW now sits in ninth place in the conference, a top-10 standing that would secure a first-round bye in the A-10 Championship-next month.

Men's soccer splits pair of conference games against UMass, St. Bonaventure

ANDRES PEREZ
REPORTER

Men's soccer lost against UMass and won against St. Bonaventure this past week in their final push for the optimal playoff position in the Atlantic 10 Championship.

The Colonials (6-5-2) fell 4-1 to the Minutemen (6-0-5) Wednesday with limited scoring chances and a goalkeeping breakdown but fought back up the A-10 standings in their 3-0 victory over the Bonnies (3-7-2) Saturday. GW now sits in ninth place in the conference, a top-10 standing that would secure a first-round bye in the championship if the Colonials can close out their A-10 slate without a late-season slide before the end of October.

Game 1:

Men's soccer lost its second straight home game 4-1 to the UMass Minutemen in a wet Wednesday matchup at the Mount Vernon Campus field.

After putting up only five shots on target against Duquesne last weekend, GW aimed to overwhelm their opponents offensively. They finished the game with an outstanding 20 shots compared to their 12.3 shot-per-game average, but the Colonials only notched one point on the scoresheet while Minutemen junior

forward Alec Hughes led UMass to a win with three goals of his own.

The Minutemen's high press kept GW from maintaining possession throughout the game. The Colonials took offensive risks going forward, but could overcome Minutemen goalkeeper Matt Zambetti who came up big, saving all five shots on target in the game. UMass' precise finishing made the difference, netting four goals from just six shots on target.

The Minutemen took an early lead in the sixth minute of the game after Hughes' shot from outside the box snuck by GW senior goalkeeper Justin Grady. The Colonials looked to get a goal of their own, missing two corner kicks and an off-target shot by senior wingback Elias Norris.

GW switched formations from a 5-2-3 to a 3-5-2, leaving three defenders in the back and throwing numbers forward with hopes of getting back in the game with a stronger attack.

But GW's hopes for a comeback were short-lived – Hughes found his hat trick in the 35th minute from a long throw-in that Grady saved, but it rebounded perfectly for Hughes to tap in for a 3-1 lead. The first half closed with UMass leading 3-1. Neither team

showed real dominance in the half, but the Minutemen were able to make their chances count to create a decisive lead that would go untouched.

The match ended 4-1, and the loss ranked GW at second-to-last place in the conference above St. Bonaventure.

Game 2:

The Colonials' second A-10 game of the week opened with a scoreless first half. GW compiled four shots on goal to St. Bonaventure's eight. The Colonials shot at a .188 clip with a .375 shot-on-goal percentage throughout the game.

Junior defender Aaron Kronenberg scored GW's first goal of the game – his fifth of the year – in the 58th minute, coming off an assist from senior attacker Tom Cooklin. The Colonials found their second score 11 minutes later when Cooklin once again set up a shot – this time junior defender Lucas Matuszewski fired the goal for his first of the year to extend the lead 2-0.

GW netted its final score of the night in the 72nd minute when Cooklin notched his third assist, crossing the ball to Norris, who scored his sixth goal of the season and finished the match with a 3-0 lead.

The Colonials will travel to take on Saint Louis on Saturday.



HATCHET FILE PHOTO

Sophomore Alejandra Ramirez said she struggled to "keep in touch" with her culture during her freshman year with a predominately non-Hispanic roster but found a larger Hispanic community through student organizations, like the Organization of Latin American Students.