

The GW Hatchet

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KIMBERLY COURTNEY AMD MAYA NAIR | PHOTOGRAPHERS

"WE'VE PUT OURSELVES IN A POSITION TO ESTABLISH AN IDENTITY AS TO WHO WE ARE AS A PROGRAM. IT'S NOT GOING TO BE EASY TO PLAY AGAINST US."
- CHRIS CAPUTO



CAPUTO READY TO REVIVE MEN'S BASKETBALL WITH TESTED NCAA EXPERIENCE

NURIA DIAZ
SPORTS EDITOR

Seven months into his tenure after his predecessor was fired and two star players transferred, men's basketball Head Coach Chris Caputo looks to build the program from top to bottom with a particular focus on player development, recruiting and fundraising.

Caputo came to GW after spending 10 seasons as an associate head coach at Miami following the firing of former Head Coach Jamion Christian in March. Caputo said the program has held pockets of success throughout its history, like Atlantic 10 championship titles and NCAA showings that he looks to build on to create sustainable success within a short period of time.

"I think it's to develop a culture where we're very hard-working," Caputo said in an interview. "We're a team that plays very hard and tough to compete against, a team that

shares the ball and plays with a lot of joy on offense. If we're doing that regardless of the results, we've put ourselves in a position to establish an identity as to who we are as a program. It's not going to be easy to play against us."

Caputo said he's sought to restock the player and coaching roster with "really competitive talent" to establish the program's sustainability for future seasons.

Caputo became the team's head coach in early April about three weeks after GW fired Christian following a lackluster showing at the A-10 tournament, where the team failed to make it past the first round. That same season, Caputo coached Miami to their first Elite Eight appearance in the 2022 NCAA tournament, drawing national attention.

During his time in Miami, Caputo established strong NBA connections, with at least one Hurricane

being drafted every year from 2016 to 2019. Miami was one of two programs in the ACC to achieve such a feat.

Caputo said the team has improved its conditioning thanks to the coaching staff, which he said will keep the team in shape this season without any COVID-19-related interruptions. He said he plans to put a sign in the locker room saying "the obstacle is the way." Words reminiscent of Roman emperor and stoic philosopher Marcus Aurelius, the phrase serves to emphasize the team's opportunity to grow throughout the season.

"The idea that we're going to approach every obstacle as an opportunity to grow and get better, it's going to be hard times, not always going to be smooth sailing," Caputo said. "But we will approach all those opportunities, will approach all those difficulties and see adversity as an opportunity to grow and get better as a group."

Caputo said the team has focused on building its defensive identity and in-game strategy with its conditioning work and a newfound sense of self-accountability during practices. He said the team will look to establish a free-flowing offense where players share the ball and find open players to create high-quality shot opportunities.

"I don't know that we totally changed the way that we're defending certain things," Caputo said. "I would say just a big emphasis on protecting the paint. We're not a team that did a good job of that last year when we look at the amount of volume people were able to get at the rim."

He said the team is transitioning to an inside-out play style on defense with closer coverage of the paint to limit fouls. The team racked up 17.06 fouls per game last season, the fifth-

highest rate in the A-10.

Caputo said experienced players like senior forward Hunter Dean will shore up the team's defensive coverage and increase steals to replicate Caputo's trademark free-flowing style. He said senior players have become "really good role models" for the three incoming players with their enthusiasm during practices.

"I think hopefully they're excited about coming to work every day, and they're learning a lot," Caputo said. "And they feel like that is a super positive environment."

Junior forward Keegan Harvey, one of three new players on the team, said Caputo's style has been the most organized and goal-oriented out of his previous four coaches. He said he creates well-communicated goals on both offense and defense, like improving defensive rebounding and communication on the court through bullet points

he outlines after practice to help them prepare for the next day.

"He communicates them very well, he gives us these bullet points and all we need to focus on is a bullet point every day for practice," Harvey said. "I feel like that sort of culture and build up every day, every little thing eventually accumulates into a full system."

Senior forward Ricky Lindo, who is preparing for his last season with the Colonials, said the coaching staff has done a "great job" at holding the team accountable. He said practices have helped the team build more trust as the coaching staff emphasizes communication on the court to improve their defensive schemes, which will not only impact the team at the A-10 level, but also individually in their professional careers.

"We're just trying to listen to everything our new Coach Caputo tells us to do," Lindo said.

Students vote for reproductive rights, academic freedom in general elections

LYDIE LAKE
REPORTER

RORY QUEALY
REPORTER

Students have cast their ballots in state races across the country for the 2022 midterm elections, focusing their votes on issues like reproductive health care, education and gun control.

More than 30 students said they voted via absentee ballot in November's elections, where 435 House of Representative and 35 Senate seats, 36 governor races and thousands of local seats are at stake. More than 20 students, some from battleground states like Texas, Pennsylvania and Florida, said they voted in this year's election to keep candidates who threaten their reproductive rights, safety and education out of office.

Two-thirds of students who voted said electing officials who support codifying reproductive rights is particularly salient during this election cycle after the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade, ending federal abortion protections and triggering a rollback of abortion protections in at

least 14 states in June.

Laurin Still, a freshman from Pennsylvania, said she voted this November because the outcome of Pennsylvania's governor race could determine policies on issues like energy, voter rights and, most pressing to Still, reproductive rights.

"I think with how far-right some of our candidates are, I was really worried about where rights would end up, especially in terms of women's reproductive rights," Still said.

At least four students said they voted for candidates who support critical race theory to protect education in their states after governors in 17 states like Florida, New Hampshire and Idaho have passed laws to eliminate education that examines how racism is embedded in U.S. laws and institutions.

Khadijah Winder, a freshman from Florida, said she voted in hopes of unseating incumbent Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis, who banned critical race theory from state schools and corporations in April. She said critical race theory should be taught in every public school because learning

through a critical, historical lens can educate children about how they should act toward others in the present and future, avoiding previously pitfalls that illustrate a history marred by systemic racism.

"Learning our past, even the good and the bad, helps you learn from your mistakes," Winder said. "So not showing students what our mistakes were, it really hinders what they think is right or wrong."

Some students said they are considering candidates' stances on immigration and foreign affairs like U.S. relations with refugees when voting in this year's midterm elections.

Bazgha Paracha, a senior from Virginia who voted in person, said she is from an international community in the state's 11th District, and the House of Representatives candidates' ability to represent and provide economic aid to refugees in her district is influential to her when voting.

"For me, what's most important in my representative is that they are respectful of the various communities that they represent," Paracha said.

Adjuncts' pay, benefits to increase in new union agreement, officials say

IANNE SALVOSA
CONTRIBUTING NEWS EDITOR

SALMONCAIN SMITH-SHOMADE
REPORTER

Part-time faculty could receive their first contractual raise in four years and an increased base salary after GW's adjunct faculty union members voted on a new Collective Bargaining Agreement Friday pending the approval from administrators and SEIU 500 officials.

Union members said the new collective bargaining agreement, a document that outlines pay and benefits for adjunct faculty at GW, could increase adjunct faculty salaries from a \$4,467 base salary to a \$5,000 base salary and give a 10-percent raise to all regular, or tenure-eligible, part-time faculty starting in the spring of 2023. Union leaders said they negotiated with officials for about 18 months to raise the pay and benefits for adjunct faculty, which still falls thousands of dollars short of adjunct pay offered at other D.C. universities.

Union officials said the agreement also doubled the \$700 professional development fund that adjunct professors originally had access to for work-related expenses like a booking hotel room for a conference, and bans full-time faculty, who are paid a full-time salary, from taking a portion of part-time professors' pay when co-teaching with them. Union officials said union members will receive details on the agreement this week.

Kip Lornell, the head of the adjunct faculty union and an adjunct professor of music, history and culture, said the 10 percent increase for regular part-time faculty is "notable," but the pay falls short of services like research and mentoring that part-time faculty provide for students in addition to teaching courses.

Officials reported that on average, full-time professors at GW earn a \$186,000 salary in 2021, but regular part-time faculty earn an annual \$24,683 salary, according to the University's collective bargaining agreement

between 2019-21.

"For me personally, that's been one of the big frustrations as you point out factual information, and they just ignore it, or they don't think it's important," Lornell said.

Prior to the new CBA, officials paid adjunct faculty with top degrees at least \$4,467 to teach a three- to four-credit class - about 10 percent more than the \$3,915 course minimum they were paid in 2011 - but the increase lags behind the roughly 19 percent jump for full professors and 17 percent jump for assistant professors in the same period.

Lisa Page, the director of the creative writing program, said she's had to replace "dynamite" adjunct professors who left GW for a higher-paying institution in the past two years. She said most adjunct faculty in the creative writing program are professional poets and novelists who actively pitch stories and write under a deadline while teaching courses as part-time professors.

"I can't pay our adjunct faculty what they deserve," Page said.

MIDTERM ELECTIONS: D.C. & NATIONAL

Fourteen alumni seek office in Congress this week

 <p>Jevin Hodge (D)</p> <p>Running for: Representative of Arizona's 1st District Graduated in: 2016 Chance of winning: 6 in 100</p>	 <p>Julia Brownley (D) INCUMBENT</p> <p>Running for: Representative of California's 26th District Graduated in: 1975 Chance of winning: 96 in 100</p>
 <p>Neal Dunn (R) INCUMBENT</p> <p>Running for: Representative of Florida's 2nd District Graduated in: 1994 Chance of winning: 99 in 100</p>	 <p>Darren Soto (D) INCUMBENT</p> <p>Running for: Representative of Florida's 9th District Graduated in: 2004 Chance of winning: 96 in 100</p>
 <p>Jared Moskowitz (D)</p> <p>Running for: Representative of Florida's 23rd District Graduated in: 2003 Chance of winning: 95 in 100</p>	 <p>Conrad Kress (R)</p> <p>Running for: Representative of Hawaii's 1st District Graduated in: 1991 Chance of winning: <1 in 100</p>
 <p>Jill Tokuda (D)</p> <p>Running for: Representative of Hawaii's 2nd District Graduated in: 1997 Chance of winning: >99 in 100</p>	 <p>Erin Houchin (R)</p> <p>Running for: Representative of Indiana's 9th District Graduated in: 2012 Chance of winning: >99 in 100</p>
 <p>Andrew Garbarino (R) INCUMBENT</p> <p>Running for: Representative of New York's 2nd District Graduated in: 2006 Chance of winning: 96 in 100</p>	 <p>Susan Wild (D) INCUMBENT</p> <p>Running for: Representative of Pennsylvania's 7th District Graduated in: 1982 Chance of winning: 49 in 100</p>
 <p>William Timmons (R) INCUMBENT</p> <p>Running for: Representative of South Carolina's 4th District Graduated in: 2006 Chance of winning: >99 in 100 (unopposed)</p>	 <p>Matt Larkin (R)</p> <p>Running for: Representative of Washington's 8th District Graduated in: 2009 Chance of winning: 21 in 100</p>
 <p>Tammy Duckworth (D) INCUMBENT</p> <p>Running for: Senator for Illinois Graduated in: 1992 Chance of winning: >99 in 100</p>	 <p>Brian Bengs (D)</p> <p>Running for: Senator for South Dakota Graduated in: 2007 Chance of winning: <1 in 100</p>

All chances of winning were determined using FiveThirtyEight election trackers as of Nov. 6. PHOTOS COURTESY OF CANDIDATE OR VIA FACEBOOK, WEBSITE

NICHOLAS ANASTACIO | GRAPHICS EDITOR

Employees donate thousands to midterm election races

SOPHIA GOEDERT
 ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

GW faculty and staff donated more than \$275,000 in this year's midterm elections to candidates and political action committees.

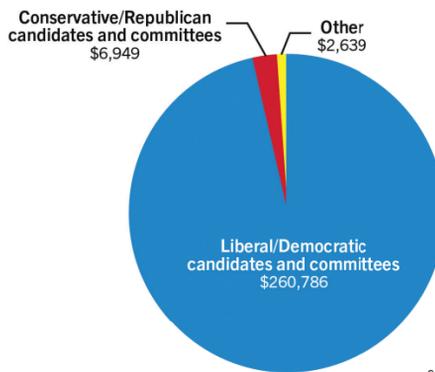
University faculty and staff donated nearly exclusively to Democratic congressional campaigns, which raked in 95 percent of employees' donations, while Republican campaigns and other parties' made up about four percent of donations. Faculty and staff donated \$156,503 to Democratic congressional candidates in 2022 while Republican candidates reeled in \$5,415 from employees, according to OpenSecrets.

"Being in D.C. has great influence on various individuals because there is much more discussion and information about the political issues that arise in Congress in the D.C. area," Ann Ravel, the former chair of the Federal Election Commission, said in an interview.

Three Democratic political action committees – the Democratic National Committee Services Corporation as well as the Democratic Senatorial and Congressional Campaign Committees – received more than \$84,000 from GW employees.

Faculty and staff contributed more than \$17,000 to the reelection campaign of Sen. Raphael Warnock's, D-GA, the largest amount given to a single candidate.

Midterm campaign donations from GW employees in 2022 by political affiliation*



Source: OpenSecrets, Federal Election Commission *As of Sept. 30, 2022

NICHOLAS ANASTACIO | GRAPHICS EDITOR

Employees donated the most to Rep. Lauren Underwood, D-IL, Rep. Tim Ryan, D-OH and Heather Mizeur – the Democratic challenger for Maryland's 1st District – out of all Democratic House candidates, with a total of \$32,084 in contributions between the three. GW employees donated just under \$4,000 to GOP House of Representative candidates, with Zach Nuun, a candidate vying to represent Iowa's 3rd District, receiving the highest donation of \$2,000.

Professors in the Milken Institute School of Public Health donated the most of any school at GW with more than \$8,300 to Democratic organizations and candidate campaigns, like Reps. Sharice Davids, D-KS, Lauren Underwood, D-IL and the Virginia House Victory PAC, according to data from the Federal Election Commission.

Professors from GW Law and the Elliott School

of International affairs contributed a total of more than \$4,650 to Democratic congressional candidates, organizations and candidate campaigns, according to FEC data.

Overall national donations for this year's midterm elections are nearly \$2 billion higher than those reported in 2018, which experts said is the result of a growing political divide.

Among the University's 12 peer schools, New York University employees contributed the most to the 2022 midterms, totaling \$1.6 million in donations, followed by the University of Southern California where employees delivered more than \$560,000 in contributions so far this year. GW ranked seventh among its peer schools.

Experts in campaigns and finance said a university's location might contribute to where their faculty donates because

policy positions and ideological commitments may impact a professor's contribution choice.

Ann Ravel, a board member of OpenSecrets and the former chair of the FEC, said faculty could be more politically involved because of GW's location in D.C., which could result in more campaign donations than universities isolated from the political sphere.

Ravel attributes the increase in national contributions to the growth of political division nationwide, stemming from the 2020 presidential election denial and the Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v. Wade, which she said created a "greater interest" in Congress' decisions.

"It is quite true compared to the rest of the country that people in D.C., all the way up from cab drivers to professors, are very involved in political issues," Ravel said.

A guide to the top candidates on D.C.'s midterm election ballot

CAPUCINE BOURBIER
 REPORTER

MAX JACKSON
 REPORTER

Since D.C. voters last went to the polls in 2020, more than 700 residents have died of COVID-19, right-wing extremists rioted at the U.S. Capitol and economic woes have left many Washingtonians reeling from a long two years.

District residents are now headed back to the polling booths, as candidates for city office speak out on abolishing the tipped minimum wage, addressing gun violence and combating housing affordability concerns. On the heels of her primary victory in June, incumbent Mayor Muriel Bowser is expected to win a third term as the District's top officeholder.

For the D.C. Council, eight candidates are running for two open at-large seats – a race headlined by at-large Council members Anita Bonds and Elissa Silverman, Ward 5 Council member Kenyan McDuffie, pharmaceutical executive Graham McLaughlin and attorney Karim Marshall. D.C. voters will each pick two of the candidates, and the top two vote-getters win seats on the Council.

Here is what you need to know about Bowser and the most significant at-large Council hopefuls:

Mayor: Muriel Bowser

Bowser won a contested Democratic primary in June, holding off progressive challengers led by at-large Council member Robert White to all but clinch her third term as mayor.

During her second term, Bowser was thrust in the national spotlight as she dealt with the onset of the pandemic and the Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol.

Bowser has signaled that her third term will



HATCHET FILE PHOTO AND COURTESY OF CANDIDATES
 On the heels of her primary victory in June, incumbent Mayor Muriel Bowser is expected to win a third term as the District's top officeholder.

concentrate on economically and socially recovering from the pandemic and continuing plans to combat homelessness.

Upon her likely reelection, Bowser will become the first D.C. mayor to serve three terms since Marion Barry, who led the District from 1979 to 1991.

At-large Council member: Anita Bonds

Democratic D.C. Council member Anita Bonds was the leading candidate in the June primaries, receiving 36 percent of the Democratic vote in a contested field. She is widely expected to win one of the two at-large seats up for grabs. Bonds was first elected in 2012.

The proliferation of affordable housing and the improvement of the District's public school system are listed on Bonds' website as her two biggest priorities.

Bonds supports Initiative 82, which would give tipped workers the same minimum wage as other workers in the District.

At-large Council member: Elissa Silverman

Council member Elissa Silverman, an Independent first elected in 2014, is the second incumbent in the at-large Council race.

Silverman co-authored the District's Paid Family Leave Act in 2022, which provides workers up to 12 weeks of paid leave to take care of a relative or recover from an illness.

At-large Council member: Kenyan McDuffie

Kenyan McDuffie, an Independent, has represented Ward 5 on the D.C. Council since 2012.

McDuffie shifted his attention to the at-large Council race, taking stances that have put him at odds with other candidates on the ballot, calling for a new D.C.-based NFL stadium for the Washington Commanders and opposing Initiative 82.

At-large Council member: Graham McLaughlin

Graham McLaughlin, an Independent, is a pharmaceutical executive and one of five nonincumbents to vie for the Council in this election. McLaughlin has focused on reforming the

D.C. government's spending accountability, pushing for more oversight and using the District's revenue to better combat nonaffordable housing and generational wealth.

McLaughlin, like Bonds and Silverman, supports abolishing the tipped minimum wage and increasing the number of MPD officers in D.C.

At-large Council member: Karim Marshall

Attorney and Independent candidate Karim Marshall has focused his campaign on increasing funding to the District's public schools and reestablishing a D.C. Council committee focused on education that was disbanded last year.

Marshall is a former Council staffer with more than a decade of experience in D.C. government.

At-large Council member: Trailing candidates

Businessman Fred Hill and Republican Giuseppe Niosi, who had more conservative platforms, did not receive any major endorsements from D.C. figures.

MIDTERM ELECTIONS: ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION

Students, alumni among candidates vying for ANC seats

GRACE CHINOWSKY
CONTRIBUTING NEWS EDITOR

HENRY HUVOS
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

In a local governing body's biennial elections, three races will pit GW alumni and students against local residents, each with hopes to represent their own slice of Foggy Bottom.

Eight of the nine single-member districts of the Foggy Bottom and West End Advisory Neighborhood Commission will have at least one candidate running to fill a seat on the ANC, which oversees the needs of constituents in GW's home neighborhood. Three of the races in SMDs known as 2A01, 2A04 and 2A07 are contested, each with at least one current or former student.

2A01 will feature a battle of two alumni, Commissioner Yannik Omictin and challenger paralegal Susana Baranano. In 2A04, two ANC newcomers are vying for a seat, with first-year law student Carson Robb taking on retired attorney Ed Comer. In 2A07, junior Dasia Bandy will look to unseat incumbent Commissioner Adam Friend.

Here is everything you need to know about the ANC's competitive races:

ANC 2A01: Alumna Susana Baranano vs. Commissioner Yannik Omictin
Commissioner Yannik Omictin, an alumnus and incumbent commissioner, is running for reelection in 2A01 – which spans the southern end of Foggy Bottom, representing Mitchell and Thurston



Six candidates are vying for three spots on the Foggy Bottom and West End ANC. Each race features at least one alum or student.

halls and apartment buildings like The York and the Statesman. Alumna Susana Baranano ran for the same district in the ANC's 1998 election and lost.

Omictin, who has served as the district's commissioner for two years and graduated from GW in 2021, said he will prioritize ending homelessness and improving transportation in his district, if reelected.

Omictin said he hopes to permanently close H Street to motor vehicles on campus to prevent pedestrian harm and promote community.

Baranano, who earned two master's degrees from GW in 1979 and 1993, said she wants to draft an ANC "bill of rights" between students and residents that outlines strong traffic safety and active neighborhood outreach, which she views to be the top priorities of the constituency. She said because constituents can't raise all their concerns during the time allotted for public comment during

meetings, commissioners should be more available to speak before or after ANC meetings to discuss issues they couldn't previously.

ANC 2A04: Law student Carson Robb vs. retired attorney Ed Comer

Commissioner Donna Barbisch is ready to step down from her seat representing the area surrounding the Watergate complex in SMD 2A04, running two years ago with plans for a brief tenure in lieu of her retirement.

Ed Comer, a retired attorney and current professor of law at the University of Pennsylvania, said Barbisch approached him to run for her seat earlier this year.

Carson Robb, a first-year law student, said he is running to offer Foggy Bottom residents an alternative choice to an unopposed candidate as a younger

voice on the D.C. political scene.

ANC 2A07: Junior Dasia Bandy vs. Commissioner Adam Friend

Junior Dasia Bandy staged a run to become Student Association president in March before losing to President Christian Zidouemba, but she has since set her sights on the ANC. She is now vying to serve on the commission's 2A07 seat, which represents Potomac House, South and Guthridge Halls, the eastern portion of Foggy Bottom and the White House.

Incumbent Commissioner Adam Friend is running as a write-in candidate against Bandy.

Friend said his top goals would be to preserve a "good relationship" with GW, continue monitoring construction at the 2100 Pennsylvania Avenue development and manage the homeless encampment along Virginia Avenue.

Vern ANC candidates have yet to talk to students

NICK PERKINS
STAFF WRITER

As the Mount Vernon campus' local governing body gears up for its midterm election, the two candidates running to represent the Vern have pledged to include GW students in their advocacy work, but have yet to speak to students on campus.

Bernie Horn and Christopher Rosier are both running for the Advisory Neighborhood Commission's 3D05 seat on platforms centered around connecting residents to D.C. and local government, but both candidates said they have yet to speak with students on the Vern campus, even though the students make up more than half of the 3D05 district's constituents. The 3D05 seat is one of seven in the ANC's 3D district that extends from the outskirts of Georgetown into D.C.'s Northwestern border with Maryland.

After redistricting this year shrank the 3D ANC by three seats, the Mount Vernon campus and several portions of the Palisades neighborhood will be in the single-member district 3D07. Jason Rao, who has previously served in the ANC representing the Vern and ANC 3D06 – prior to the redistricting – since 2021, will not be seeking reelection.

Rosier, an acting director of contracts and acquisition management for the Department of Education, said he has been going door to door in 3D07, shaking hands and introducing himself to residents. He added that as far as he knows he has not yet spoken with any GW students while campaigning, but wants students to be active in local government.

"My main thing for the GW students that I'm going to do is be a true advo-



With the entire Mount Vernon Campus within the new 3D07 single-member district, more than half of the district's constituents are Vern residents.

cate here, being somebody that's going to be present, somebody that you can send an email to, that's going to respond, that's going to look at your issue," Rosier said. "I want to be somebody that's here to serve, somebody that's going to be present and advocate for the students."

The Vern's population makes up roughly more than half of the 3D07 constituency. In 2021, the Vern housed 1,699 students, and single member districts of ANCs have a target population of 2,000.

Rosier said a key issue he sees in their district is the new charter high school set to open in 2023, a source of controversy given concerns that the new school will result in increased traffic from students and parents driving to and from the school. He said he wants to ensure that even with increased traffic in an already traffic-heavy area, the roads are still safe for pedestrians and bikers.

"There's already a lot of traffic that comes through and from through this area," he said. "So having

an understanding of okay, now you're bringing in a bunch of kids that may or may not be driving, how they're going to get there, what's the mobility plan, that's a big issue as well."

Rosier said his main goal if elected would be to hear from residents at neighborhood-specific assembly meetings in Ward 3 so he can be "present" with his constituents. Rosier said he also wants to increase awareness of ANC issues within the community through outreach on social media.

Bernie Horn, the senior director for policy and communication at the D.C.-based nonprofit Public Leadership Institute, said his experience in politics is key to his candidacy because he is already knowledgeable about crafting legislation with a D.C. focus given his experience in politics. He said he wants to ensure developers honor their agreement with the Palisades Community Association to add a new grocery store to replace the old Safeway in the Palisades.

He said he envisions his role in the ANC as listening to complaints from his constituents in the neighborhood and helping communicate any issues that come up with the city, so those complaints are heard. He said he has already started the door-to-door process, going around twice in the ANC District over the last six weeks – but has not made his way over to the Vern as of last week.

"I just got the voter list, and I've walked door to door, I've gone around the district twice," Horn said.

Horn said he hasn't spoken with any GW students yet since he doesn't see a practical way to go door-to-door on the campus since he won't have tap access to the dorms. He said that while he has not noticed or heard about any issues at the Vern campus through surveys, he wants to be able to work with students and faculty should issues arise.

"As there are specific issues presented, I will try to create surveys for residents so that it encourages feedback," he said.

Meet the five ANC candidates running unopposed

GRACE CHINOWSKY
CONTRIBUTING NEWS EDITOR

HENRY HUVOS
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR



Jim Malec

Jim Malec, the president of a digital media consulting agency, is running unopposed for district 2A02, which spans the uppermost northwest quadrant of West End. Malec said he will prioritize ANC oversight of the landscaping renovations of Francis Field.

Malec also said he wants to expand community access to GW's Foggy Bottom campus for buildings like Lerner Health and Wellness Center and Gelman Library.

"I want to explore, with the University, different ways to foster more integration," Malec said.



Trupti Patel
INCUMBENT

Trupti Patel has represented 2A03 – which sits between New Hampshire Avenue and Georgetown – since 2018 and is running unopposed for her third term. Patel, who received a master's degree from GW in 2005, has lived and worked in Foggy Bottom for nearly 20 years while supporting food and job security, tipped minimum wage increases and traffic safety improvements in Foggy Bottom during her four years on the ANC.



Joel Causey
INCUMBENT

Joel Causey is running unopposed as a write-in candidate to represent 2A06, which covers the Northeastern side of West End and properties like Yours Truly and the Ritz-Carlton.

Causey said his main priorities are reducing the neighborhood's rat population and increasing pavement markings on the streets of 2A06 to improve traffic and sidewalk safety. He said he hopes to accomplish commission-wide goals like housing unsheltered individuals experiencing and getting rid of the "food desert" near the Watergate.



Jordan Nassar

Jordan Nassar is campaigning to serve in 2A08 – which represents District House and Lafayette Hall – with familiar hopes of bridging the gap between students and the neighboring Foggy Bottom and West End communities.

Nassar said he plans to control the rat population that makes basic nightly activities uncomfortable. He said he wants to push for more student involvement in the ANC because student activists would be an "asset" to the commission.



Evelyn Hudson
INCUMBENT

Evelyn Hudson, who currently represents SMD 2A05, is switching districts and running unopposed for the 2A09 seat that the ANC redistricting created in June. The new SMD spans Amsterdam, Madison, Fulbright and JBKO halls and the GW Hospital.

Hudson has praised initiatives like maintaining the GW Hospital helipad and was the sole dissenting vote against Commissioner Yannik Omictin's April resolution urging the D.C. Council to reform its rapid rehousing voucher program.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF CANDIDATE OR FILE PHOTO

NICHOLAS ANASTACIO | GRAPHICS EDITOR

News

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

A NEW PHASE IN THE ARMENIAN-AZERBAIJANI CONFLICT?: FROM THE KARABAKH CONFLICT TO THE ESCALATION AT THE AZERBAIJANI-ARMENIAN BORDER
 Monday, Nov. 7 | 11 a.m. EDT | Online
 Tune into an event with experts discussing the recent conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia.

GW GERMAN PROGRAM SPECIAL EXHIBIT
 Wednesday, Nov. 9 | 10 a.m. EDT | Gelman Library
 Join Professor Mary Beth Stein and her Literature of Two Germanys class for an opening of a new exhibit: "A Country of Readers: The German Democratic Republic."

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY
 Nov. 11, 1994

Former President Bill Clinton met with GW students after he returned to the U.S. from a trip to the Middle East.

Writing Center scales back hiring, hours across campus locations to meet budget cuts

EÓIGHAN NOONAN
 REPORTER

LIV SMITH
 REPORTER

Faculty overseeing the Writing Center said they scaled back hiring efforts and hours this fall after officials instructed them to cut their operating expenses for the academic year.

Faculty in the Writing Center – which offers free support to students seeking to improve their writing – said the center decreased its operating hours at its headquarters in Gelman Library by seven percent and paused services at its three satellite centers in Eckles and Himmelfarb Libraries and the Multicultural Student Services Center ahead of the fall semester. Faculty said they also decided against hiring two new graduate student writing consultants to meet the budget cuts. Columbia College of Arts and Sciences officials requested.

Kim Gross, the CCAS vice dean for programs and operations, said CCAS, which runs the center, sets the maximum number of hours it is able to operate during the fiscal year. She said the center allocated

8,706 hours to the center in fiscal year 2023 but declined to say how many hours they allocated last fiscal year.

"The college allocates hours rather than a specific dollar amount and programs work within that," she said. "Wages are based on hourly D.C. minimum wage."

Gross said officials determined the number of hours to allocate based on enrollment trends, usage rates in prior years and CCAS' overall budget.

"The program has requested some additional hours in light of this year's large first-year class size," Gross said. "CCAS recognizes that the demand for Writing Center support often comes from first-year students, and we are now working with the program to add to the hours currently allocated."

During a Faculty Senate meeting earlier this month, faculty senators said the Writing Center and multiple other departments, programs and centers within CCAS are experiencing hiring issues due to "inadequate" financial support.

Gordon Mantler – the executive director of the University Writing Program that houses the Writing Center

– said while the center employs 45 to 50 consultants, which is in line with the number of consultants they employed in previous years, with this year's exceptionally large freshman class they had hoped to hire more. He said canceling the search for new graduate student consultants has made it harder to support first-year students since they can't meet the demand for appointments.

"The unfortunate thing is that we have this huge, dynamic class of great students who have understandably more demands for these kinds of resources," Mantler said. "And we can't fully meet them the way that we would like."

Mantler said the center also introduced a lunch hour where it is closed from noon to 1 p.m. Monday through Thursday to reduce staffing costs. He said the cuts limit the number of writing consultants available at any given time, making it difficult for students to book same-day or next-day appointments.

"You want to have a 70 to 75 percent usage rate," he said. "In other words, if somebody wants a same-day or a next-day appointment, they can get it. But right now we're

running closer to 95 percent, which means that every appointment that's available is taken, which makes it really difficult for somebody to come in spontaneously and set up an appointment."

Blyss, an undergraduate consultant for the Writing Center who only shared her first name because of the center's academic confidentiality policies, said the introduction of the center's lunch hour limited the number of hours available for consultants to work.

"The budget cuts mean that we can't get as many hours as we used to due to the center being closed for an hour every day, except Friday, during the week," she said.

Carol Hayes, the director of the Writing Center, said while the center paused operations at its satellite locations in Eckles and Himmelfarb Libraries and the MSSC, the decision to not staff the other locations did not result in any cuts to student positions.

"We regret that the impact of the budget cuts has been on the side of our clients – the students who rely on writing support and have fewer opportunities to receive it," she said.

CRIME LOG

THEFT II/OTHER

Private Property within Campus Bounds
 10/31/2022 – 1:30-2:30 p.m.
 Open Case
 A male student reported their speaker stolen from the backyard of their non-University residence on campus.
Case open.

THEFT II/FROM BUILDING

Mitchell Hall (7-Eleven Store)
 10/31/2022 – 7:30 p.m.
 Open Case
 GW Police Department officers responded to reports from a female complainant of an unknown male subject entering in a 7-Eleven and stealing items. Upon arrival, the subject had already fled the scene.
Case open.

BLACKMAIL

Private Property within Campus Bounds
 10/31/2022 – 6:52 p.m.
 Open Case
 A male student reported that an unknown subject contacted them via text message to blackmail them for Bitcoin in an on-campus apartment building.
Case open.

THEFT II/BICYCLES

Academic Center (Breezeway)
 11/1/2022 – 11 a.m.-7:30 p.m.
 Open Case
 A female student reported their bicycle stolen from a bike rack.
Case open.

THEFT II/OTHER

University Yard
 11/2/2022 – noon-3 p.m.
 Open Case
 A student reported that her electric scooter was left unsecured and was stolen from University Yard.
Case open.

TRAFFIC ACCIDENT: HIT AND RUN

Science and Engineering Hall (SEH Garage)
 11/2/2022 – 2:40 p.m.
 Open Case
 A non-GW affiliated male driver was observed colliding with two unattended cars while exiting the SEH parking garage after GWPD officers responded to reports of the same individual backing up into multiple parked cars, citing a "vehicle malfunction."
Case open.

LIQUOR LAW VIOLATION

Shenkman Hall
 10/28/2022 – 1:35 a.m.
 Closed Case
 GWPD responded to a report of an intoxicated male student. EMeRG responders arrived on the scene and transported the student to the GW Emergency Room.
Referred to DSA.

— Complied by Grace Chinowsky

SNAPSHOT

KYLE ANDERSON | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Protesters gathered for their seventh week of demonstrations in the District against the Iranian regime led by Ayatollah Khamenei and to commemorate people killed by Iranian police.

The Order of the Hippo regrets to announce the passing of

Mary Mai
 Hippo Class of 2005

Art for Wisdom,
 Science for Joy,
 Politics for Beauty,
 and a Hippo for Hope.

The Order of the Hippo regrets to announce the passing of

Anjan Choudhury
 Hippo Class of 2000

Art for Wisdom,
 Science for Joy,
 Politics for Beauty,
 and a Hippo for Hope.

Fraternity recruitment drops after reinstatement of 12-credit requirement

EÓIGHAN NOONAN
STAFF WRITER

FAITH WARDWELL
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Fraternity recruitment numbers took a nosedive this semester after officials reinstated a pre-pandemic policy requiring freshmen to complete 12 University credit hours before rushing.

Twenty-two students accepted bids from an Interfraternity Council chapter this semester, marking a steep drop from the 121 students who accepted bids last fall semester. Fraternity leaders said the University's decision to restore the freshman credit requirement was likely responsible for the drop in fall recruitment numbers and may lead to financial struggles in the next semester as chapters grapple with less revenue from new members.

The University dropped its credit requirement for IFC rush last year to encourage freshmen to find community on campus following the pandemic, and recruitment figures spiked to match pre-pandemic totals with more than 50 more participants than spring rush months earlier.

Brian Joyce, the director of Fraternity and Sorority Life, said officials reestablished

the 12-credit-minimum policy so prospective new members and fraternity chapters could become familiar with each other before offering and accepting bids so campus newcomers could have time to acclimate to Foggy Bottom academically and socially before committing to a chapter.

"Prospective new members can make more informed decisions about the fraternities and sororities that they are interested in joining by taking a semester to learn the culture and perhaps correct stereotypes about fraternities and sororities that they may carry with them from high school or popular media," Joyce said in an email.

He said Delta Tau Delta and Zeta Beta Tau added four new members, Kappa Sigma and Phi Gamma Delta added one new member, Sigma Alpha Epsilon added three new members and Sigma Chi added five new members. Alpha Sigma Phi, Beta Theta Pi and Tau Kappa Epsilon recruited no new members, Joyce said.

IFC President Patrick Tajanlangit said the IFC will establish an "open bidding" period for the first time this semester, allowing fraternities to continue to recruit upperclassmen past

the fall informal recruitment period in an attempt to combat the low bid rates. He said recruiting new members brings in higher amounts of revenue from membership dues that fraternity chapters can allocate to pay costs from their national chapters.

Tajanlangit said initially pushed officials to allow all freshmen to rush following last year's surge in participation and positive feedback they shared in a post-recruitment survey. He said most IFC board members involved in the decision last spring on whether to drop or reinstate the freshman credit policy were supportive of offering bids to freshmen in the fall regardless of credit count.

But he said he understands the University's decision to restore the credit requirement to allow freshmen to find community outside of their fraternity and become familiar with the varying values and personalities of different chapters on campus before accepting a bid. Tajanlangit said AP credits acquired before freshman year do not count toward the 12 credits required to participate in recruitment.

"I think it'd be better for them," Tajanlangit said. "Back when I was a freshman, I was only allowed to rush in the spring, and I



HATCHET FILE PHOTO

Fraternity leaders said the University's decision to restore the credit requirement may lead to financial struggles throughout the next semester as chapters confront a decrease in revenue from new members.

think that helped me."

Jack Palaian, the president of Delta Tau Delta, said while allowing freshmen to rush last year helped increase recruitment numbers during the pandemic, the reinstatement of the 12-credit policy this year was expected and welcomed by fraternities, and IFC fraternities typically adhere to a spring rush format.

Christopher Haworth,

the president of Kappa Sigma, said even though freshmen are prohibited from rushing this semester, many expressed interest at events like Meet the Greeks in early September, where Greek life organizations promoted their chapters in the University Student Center.

Haworth said he understands the reestablished credit requirement can allow freshmen to discover their

own personal interests, but many chapters are now in a "very difficult situation" with low recruitment totals and small pledge classes going into the next semester.

Haworth said in addition to University policy, low recruitment rates this semester are likely because all upperclassmen have already had several opportunities to go through the recruitment process.



FILE PHOTO BY CAMILLE DESANTO

The Board of Trustees voted to retire the Colonials moniker in June after years of pressure from student activists who said it glorified the legacy of international colonialism, slavery and racial discrimination.

Officials quiet on cost of moniker change

IANNE SALVOSA
CONTRIBUTING NEWS EDITOR

JENNIFER IGBONOBA
REPORTER

Officials have remained quiet on the potential costs of replacing the Colonials moniker.

The Board of Trustees voted to retire the Colonials moniker in June after years of pressure from student activists who said it glorified the legacy of international colonialism, slavery and racial discrimination but officials have declined to comment on the potential cost of changing the moniker. Experts in higher education marketing and branding said changing a moniker includes costs like updating Colonials-branded merchandise and campus facilities renovations in spaces like basketball courts.

University spokesperson Josh Grossman declined to comment on how they plan to fund the moniker change, what materials around campus would have to be updated due to the new moniker and when officials would consider the transition to the new moniker complete.

Officials said in September that they partnered with Sullivan, a New York-based branding firm, and created an online engagement form last month to garner feedback from current and past members of the GW community on their thoughts for the next moniker.

Erin Hedlun — the senior director of marketing and communications at Evangel University, a small university of about 2,200 undergraduate and graduate students — said Evangel spent about \$500,000 to change its mascot from the Crusaders to Valor in 2021 because the university did not want to associate itself with the series of religious wars between Catholics and Muslims. She said updating the mascot's image on the

wooden basketball court floor, athletics scoreboard and the street signs on campus accounted for most of the cost.

"The time is now, and we kind of knew that it wouldn't be an inexpensive opportunity, but it was decided that the cost was worth it," Hedlun said.

She said Evangel officials did not factor the potential cost of replacing the mascot's image across campus into the decision to retire the Crusader mascot because the Crusades represented a "dark" time in history. She said Evangel students, alumni and the broader community have "embraced" the Valor mascot and officials noticed an increase in donations to the university since they retired the Crusader mascot last year.

"We found that communicating often and clearly and with transparency about how we were deciding on a new mascot was really critical in our community, embracing it like they did," Hedlun said.

Jalisa Fulwood, the assistant athletic director of media relations at Howard University, said she worked at Centre College — a small university with about 1,300 students in attendance — as the school was in the process of switching its mascot logo from a Colonel to an Eagle in 2018 because the university wanted to "divert" away from the logo's semblance to a Civil War colonel.

Fulwood said the cost of purchasing new sports jerseys due to the moniker change was up to the coaches because some coaches at Centre College did not change their uniforms immediately after the logo change in 2018 due to limited availability of funds.

"We did have one team, our women's basketball, who still had to wear their old shorts for some time which had the old logo on it," Fulwood said. "But when

it came to promoting it and putting it in our graphic designs and things like that, I would go in Photoshop and remove the old logo because we do not want that on any form of our social media moving forward."

Fulwood said the cost of designing a new moniker varies based on the graphic design skills available on staff at the university because it would cost more to hire a designer not already affiliated with the university.

"We were looking at getting a designer, his base was \$10,000, but, based off of the research we did ourselves in-house and the talent that we had in-house, we were actually able to design it ourselves," Fulwood said.

Fulwood also said Centre College hosted a silent auction and a trunk show to sell old merchandise with the previous moniker. She said the athletic department donated any leftover clothing, but Centre College officials gave the profits from the sold merchandise to the athletics teams.

"People have gotten used to it," Fulwood said. "You have a whole new group of students that do not even know what the old logo looks like. And so it's been completely phased, so it just takes time."

Matt McFadden, senior vice president of SimpsonScarborough, a higher education marketing firm, said universities that change their moniker will have to change the mascot's graphic design work while maintaining its ties to the "GW identity."

He said most universities are not ready to commit to a mascot change and only a few schools have changed their mascots in the past few years.

"We've talked with a lot of institutions that are weighing that nobody really is quite ready," McFadden said.

Officials to open lounge for commuter students seeking community, stability

FAITH WARDWELL
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

SHEA CARLBERG
STAFF WRITER

As junior James Tan sat down to select his classes for this semester, he placed the list of the courses he wanted next to a schedule of the Virginia Science and Technology Campus Express shuttle pick-up times.

Tan faced a challenge — build a class schedule that checked off major requirements while carving out time to catch the bus home on time every day. He said he was lucky enough to claim the only organic chemistry lab that didn't fall beyond the shuttle's limited times, but Tan knew the confines of his commute would continue to dictate his daily routines, whether it was a hurried lunch break or a lack of availability in D.C. during the evening hours.

"I just compared and said I want to take the bus as much as possible, all of my classes have to fit in this time," Tan said.

Tan, who lives in Herndon, Virginia, a 30-minute drive west of D.C., said a cut back in VSTC Express shuttle departure times initiated near the start of the pandemic has prompted some commuter students to miss out on late-evening classes to catch the final 4:40 p.m. shuttle departure each day over the course of the past year. He said the transportation issues combined with other obstacles like a lack of communal space and events for commuter students to convene has fostered a commuter culture that mimics a monotonous "9-to-5" occupation.

Officials said the University is launching an on-campus commuter lounge in the University Student Center at the start of the spring semester in response to student

concerns. But more than 10 students who commute to campus from across the DMV said the accommodation has come after more than a year marked by difficulty registering for classes that align with transportation schedules and find places to heat up packed meals they bring to campus to save money without any allocated GWorld funds.

Tan, the president of the Commuter Students Association, said the CSA aims to connect commuter students through events educating students on how to protect themselves while riding public transportation to campus each day. He said many commuter students utilize public transportation like the Metro to get to campus, while others ride the VSTC Express or drive.

He said as a commuter, it can be difficult to identify and connect with other commuter students outside of class because they rarely linger on campus, often with a shuttle or train to catch.

Coleman said furniture-related supply chain issues delayed the lounge's opening from a projected the summer or early fall opening until the start of the spring semester. She said the space will include a locked fridge restricted to commuter students, a microwave and a common area where students can "unwind" and build community.

Tharun Saravanan, a sophomore studying computer science, said he uses the VSTC Express to commute to and from campus each day with GW's Ashburn campus just five minutes away from his home in Sterling, Virginia. He said he often feels restricted in his class selection, with later class times sometimes requiring alternative means of transportation when the shuttle's limited departure times don't line up with his

schedule.

The VSTC Express departs from its Foggy Bottom stop in front of Fungler Hall on G Street four times per day between 7 a.m. and 4:40 p.m. before traveling to the VSTC at the Ashburn campus.

Before its operations were scaled back due to the pandemic, the shuttle previously offered a 7:30 p.m. departure time from Foggy Bottom, according to a VSTC Express schedule that the University's website posted in spring 2019.

Baxter Goody, the associate vice president of facilities planning, construction and management, said the VSTC Express initially paused service during the beginning of the pandemic in spring 2020 and adopted a reduced schedule in the 2021-22 academic year due to decreased demand.

Goody addressed commuter students' concerns about reheating food, announcing that a new "microwave cleaning program" will begin Friday that will require custodial staff to clean common area microwaves, like in campus spaces like District House, each Friday. He said the two microwaves in the University Student Center are currently cleaned daily.

Sarah Sharp, a commuting freshman studying accounting, said she often struggles to find clean microwaves on campus to reheat her meals, and she often resorts to peanut butter sandwiches due to a lack of refrigerators or clean microwaves. She said the commuter lounge will provide amenities like these for commuter students while also building a community by providing a gathering place for commuters.

"It'd be a really great place to meet other commuters and build a community, like people in dorms," Sharp said.



KRISHNA RAJPARA | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

Dean of Students Colette Coleman said furniture-related supply chain issues delayed the lounge's opening from a projected the summer or early fall opening until the start of the spring semester.

Milken analysis finds school's education excelled through pandemic response

MAX PORTER

REPORTER

SOPHIA GOEDERT

ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The Milken Institute School of Public Health released a case study late last month analyzing its response to the COVID-19 pandemic based on the school's performance in research, education and operations.

Milken Dean Lynn Goldman and associate deans in the public health school led the case study and found the school's increase in financial aid, establishment of the COVID testing laboratory and mobilization of the GW Health volunteer task force that assisted D.C.'s COVID testing efforts created a robust framework for education, research and service during the pandemic. The study states their public health institutes can replicate the model of Milken's response to the pandemic to guide their academic operations during future public health emergencies while maintaining their core mission.

Goldman said Milken officials started documenting the school's response to the pandemic in 2021 to create a model for the future to ensure academic prepared-

ness in the case of a public health emergency. She said the study identified a rise in COVID research at Milken — marked by the COVID testing lab and the COVID specimen bank, where researchers studied the vaccine for the virus — and a shift in student interest toward public health fields like microbiology and infectious diseases during the pandemic.

"When you do a great thing and don't write about it and don't communicate about it, it can be as if though you didn't do it at all," Goldman said in an interview.

Goldman said COVID became a "core" research topic within Milken during the pandemic through its participation in the Sanofi COVID vaccine trials, where GW recruited volunteers to receive the vaccine in February 2021. She said the research equipment, like freezers for COVID vaccines, in Milken allowed researchers to analyze PCR COVID tests processed in campus labs that analyzed the coronavirus so researchers could reproduce the virus and contribute to the pandemic response.

She said Milken could have improved in targeting the spread of misinformation about COVID, noting

the "politicization" of the pandemic as a problem not only for universities but also for institutions like the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health because it can cause greater populations of people to go unvaccinated.

The study states Milken's long-term responses to continued education consisted of accomplishments like the GW Cares student assistance fund — a scholarship for students financially affected by the pandemic — and expanded digital platforms like Zoom, Blackboard and Webex to enhance virtual teaching innovations.

"We now have ongoing research on COVID; so that is an outgrowth of some of the work that we did that was really more kind of responses to the pandemic, but COVID has become part now of our core research agenda," Goldman said.

Experts in infectious disease and public health said universities and public health institutes need to have frequent communications during public health emergencies to ensure the most effective response is implemented.

Amesh Adalja — a senior scholar at the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security



HATCHET FILE PHOTO

Milken Dean Lynn Goldman said Milken officials started documenting the school's response to the pandemic in 2021 to create a model to ensure academic preparedness in the case of a public health emergency.

at the Bloomberg School of Public Health and a practicing infectious disease, critical care and emergency medicine physician — said universities should have started to lift strict COVID-19 policies after the release of the vaccine in 2020. He called policies like outdoor masking unnecessary on college campuses, where the population is generally at a lower risk for severe CO-

VID symptoms.

GW mandates all community members be fully vaccinated against COVID unless officials approve their application for a religious or medical exemption. GW dropped its universal indoor mask mandate in September but still requires masks in indoor instructional settings, on GW-operated transportation and in University-operated medical facilities.

David Morton, a professor of industrial engineering and management sciences at Northwestern University, said he has worked on tracking and analyzing data in response to the 2009 swine flu pandemic and the COVID pandemic. He said most universities succeeded in providing information technology support to educators when classes were moved online.



SAGE RUSSELL | PHOTOGRAPHER

Officials decided to reduce Eckles' hours when the library reopened last fall after finding that, on average, few students used the library in the mornings and after midnight.

Eckles Library's reduced hours draw criticism from freshmen

CAROLINE MOORE

REPORTER

ROXIE PARKER

REPORTER

Officials said they reduced the hours of Eckles Library last fall after closing the library due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but freshmen living on the Mount Vernon Campus said the reduced hours are an "inconvenience" that limits their studying opportunities.

Geneva Henry, the dean of libraries and academic innovation, said officials decided to reduce Eckles' hours when the library reopened last fall after finding that, on average, few students used the library in the mornings and after midnight. Freshmen living on the Vern said Eckles' operating hours — noon to midnight Sunday through Thursday and noon to 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday — inhibit their productivity because the times they can study in the library while on the Vern are limited, unlike Gelman Library which is open 24 hours a day.

The current operating hours of Eckles are 37 percent less than the available hours in fall 2019, which were open from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 a.m. Monday through Thursday, according to an earlier version of the GW Libraries website.

"To best use our limited staffing budget, hours at Eckles were reduced to ensure the continuation of 24-hour service at Gelman," Henry said in an email. "This realignment of Eckles' hours with study usage also allows us to provide a regular schedule of evening research consultations at Eckles."

Henry said while there is one librarian permanently stationed at Eckles, many librarians stationed at Gelman travel between the campuses. She said the resources officials allocate

to Eckles, like books and furniture, come from a centralized budget for all three of the University's libraries — Eckles, Gelman and the Virginia Science and Technology Campus Library.

Faculty said budget cuts implemented in 2020 to combat the financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic limited funding for GW Libraries and increased burnout among library staff members as they picked up additional responsibilities, like managing book deliveries to Gelman.

"Staff, books, library resources and furniture all come from a central budget and aren't allocated specifically to Eckles from year to year," Henry said. "Instead, we look at the libraries as a whole and prioritize spending where it is most needed."

Gordon Mantler, an associate professor of history whose office is located in Ames Hall on the Vern, said Eckles was open in the mornings before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and served as a place for students to hang out on the campus.

Mantler, who also serves as the executive director of the University Writing Program, said faculty who oversee the Writing Center — which is housed under the University Writing Program — also paused services at their satellite center in Eckles after Columbian College of Arts and Sciences officials instructed them to decrease their operating expenses for the academic year.

"A lot of this has to do with just recovering from the pandemic in terms of resources," he said. "We might think things are normal, but they're not, and so the University is taking longer to be able to get back to where it was at another era."

Ten freshmen who live on the Vern said Eckles' reduced hours limit the opportunities they have to

study while on the Vern and drive them to find alternative locations to study. Carola Petrucci, a freshman double majoring in human services and social justice and journalism and mass communication, said the library's operating hours are "annoying" because she is not able to study there before noon every day. Petrucci said she often studies inside the 24-hour computer lab located at the entrance of Eckles instead.

"The computer lab is open 24 hours a day, so I've literally just been sitting in the computer lab with the old computers," Petrucci said. "It's not super helpful."

Pravina Khadka, a freshman majoring in journalism and mass communication, said she studied at Eckles frequently during the beginning of the fall semester but rarely does now because she finds the hours to be an "inconvenience." She said extending Eckles' hours would give students on the Vern more flexibility to plan their studying times.

"Something like opening up early and closing a little late, it doesn't even have to be 24 hours, would be extremely convenient," she said.

Isabelle Steinbrunn, a freshman majoring in art history and history, said Eckles' Saturday hours are particularly inconvenient because the library is only open until 6:00 p.m., unlike Sunday through Thursday when the library is open until midnight. She said she has often had to leave Eckles earlier than she originally planned.

"It's actually horrible," Steinbrunn said. "There's been several times where we've gone at 5:30 p.m. on a Saturday and they close at 6, and it just is super inconvenient. Even when you're there just at 10, having to leave at 12 is inconvenient, compared to Gelman where you can stay 24 hours."

Solar panel costs drop with global trading, SEAS professor finds

SOPHIA GOEDERT

ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

A professor in the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences found that the global trading of solar panel technology saved countries \$67 billion from 2006 to 2020, in a study published late last month.

John Helveston, the lead author of the study, said the study calculates how much money China, as the leader of global solar manufacturing, has saved globally by increasing their manufacturing and export of solar panels, as opposed to individual countries producing their own solar panels with strict trade policies that are more costly. The study's findings — which focus on Germany, China and the United States — show how strict trading policies like tariffs can increase solar panel prices, decrease manufacturing rates and in turn contribute to the creation of more carbon emissions.

Helveston, an assistant professor of engineering management and systems engineering, said the main goal of the study is to determine how China's increase of solar panel production has saved money globally. He said the learning models in the study found energy costs from solar panels went down in China when compared to Germany and the United States, where fewer panels are manufactured.

"So what I think would be the smarter strategy, at least in terms of meeting climate goals, is to reduce our barriers, get rid of our tariffs on Chinese panels," Helveston said.

He said the study found that projected solar panel costs will continue to fall globally until 2030, and the inclusion of barriers like tariffs will keep solar power's prices high. Helveston said reducing travel for scientists working with foreign

businesses that have a more complicated process to obtain work visas can also keep costs high.

"So restricting the foreign talent from really anywhere is shooting ourselves in the feet in terms of being able to learn quickly," Helveston said.

He said to meet climate goals, production of solar panels in the United States needs to increase. He said President Joe Biden's implementation of the Inflation Reduction Act has intensified domestic production of solar panels and will allow more companies to enter the solar industry.

Helveston said if the U.S. were to purchase solar panels from China for the next 10 years, it would allow American solar panel manufacturers to perfect their designs and make the building process efficient enough to become self sufficient in solar panel production.

The study found China accounts for 81 percent of the world's solar panel production, according to data from 2021.

"That's the number-one benefit, is trying to push the world more and more towards decarbonizing our economies," Helveston said.

Experts in environmental studies and economics said tariffs on solar panels inflate purchasing prices and increasing domestic manufacturing can decrease the carbon emissions.

Dustin Mulvaney, a professor of environmental studies at San Jose State University, said Helveston's study accurately provides data showing how solar panel manufacturing without policies like tariffs increase global savings because they increase production costs. But he said the "learning curve" approach — that a learner's knowledge increases the more the task is performed — used in the study overlooks critical as-

pects like increased prices in polysilicon and glass used to produce solar panels that have increased due to tariffs.

He said the prices of solar panel modules "bottomed out" at 19 cents per watt in 2019 and today costs 25 cents per watt.

Mulvaney said tariffs between China and the United States pushes companies to produce solar panels in other foreign countries to avoid the tariffs, which raises the price of solar energy overall.

Mulvaney said he agrees with the study that increasing solar panel manufacturing in the U.S. can reduce carbon emissions, and said the U.S. produced a "record" number of photovoltaic solar modules in 2020.

Solar panel production increased by 34 percent in the U.S. from 2020 to 2021, according to data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

Kenneth Gillingham, a professor of environmental and energy economics at Yale University, said "very little" solar manufacturing actually occurs in the U.S. and the majority of the domestic manufacturing process involves the final assembly of the panels.

Gillingham said tariffs have resulted in a "notable" rise in the final purchase price of solar panels, and the Solar Energy Industries Association — a nonprofit solar energy trade association — has been fighting against them. He said the high cost of producing solar panels hinders the U.S.'s production rates of solar panels.

"If different regions have comparative advantages, they can specialize, really do well and produce components that go into renewable energy at lowest cost," Gillingham said. "Despite the fact that there are some costs of shipping, that can lead to lower overall cost for renewable energy."



SAGE RUSSELL | PHOTOGRAPHER

John Helveston, the lead author of the study, said the learning models in the study found energy costs from solar panels went down in China when compared to Germany and the United States, where fewer panels are manufactured.

WHAT THE UNIVERSITY WON'T TALK ABOUT THIS WEEK

Hours officials allocated to the Writing Center in the last fiscal year. p. 4

FROM GWHATCHET.COM/OPINIONS

"As contributors to D.C.'s economy and members of our own communities, the least D.C. can offer resident noncitizens in return is the basic right to vote."

— PAIGE BARATTA on 11/03/2022

Opinions

To celebrate GW's commitment to democracy, make Election Day a holiday STAFF EDITORIAL

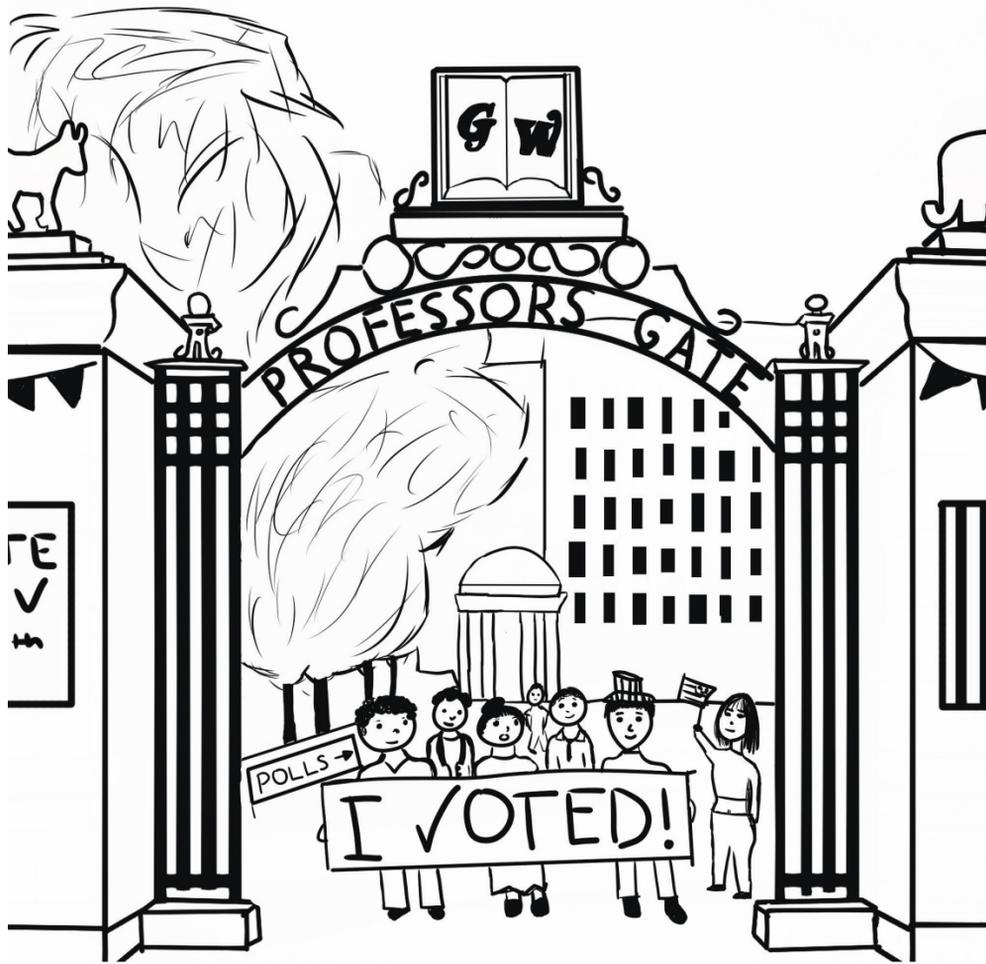
Between its location and its history, the course of U.S. politics runs through GW. The University preaches that politically active students can look forward to joining an alumni network of senators, diplomats and world leaders. But as much as they may tout students' potential as changemakers, Election Day is still neither a national nor University-wide holiday.

For many, especially staff and faculty, Election Day is just another day of work — a day that often takes time away from heading to the polls and enacting their civic duty. As long as such an obstacle remains in place on campus, the University's commitment to its community's political ambitions seems more like empty rhetoric than actual policy. If civic participation truly matters at GW, then officials should make Election Day an official holiday.

The Student Association Senate called on faculty to allow excused absences and avoid scheduling due dates for assignments or administering exams on Election Day last month. But more formal time off for Election Day isn't without precedent. Officials designated Election Day a University holiday in 2020 as a response to a student petition and similar decision at American University. Then-University President Thomas LeBlanc canceled synchronous classes, closed offices and allowed staff members still required to work on campus to schedule up to two hours of paid time off with their supervisors so they could vote. But there's no sign that officials are considering doing the same for this year's midterm elections.

2020 may stand out as "the most important election in our lifetime," hence officials' decision to declare a holiday. But the stakes needn't be so high to have a day off to engage with U.S. democracy. With or without a pandemic or critical presidential election, there's an inherent value in exercising your right to vote — whatever the year, the candidates or the issues, political participation is the foundation of our democracy.

Citywide and hyperlocal elections in D.C. will determine the of-



CAMELLIA GENOVESE | CARTOONIST

officials who decide everything from increases in the District's minimum wage to the drinks your favorite restaurants and clubs can serve. D.C. voters could decide to reelect Mayor Muriel Bowser for a third term in office, endorsing her vision of a post-pandemic comeback for the city despite an uptick in crime and a lack of affordable housing in the city. Their support for progressive or more moderate candidates

in races to represent Wards 1, 3, 5 and 6 on the D.C. Council, plus the citywide contest for two at-large seats, could realign the District's legislature. In turn, these new Council members would be responsible for implementing or rejecting policy ranging from rent control to Initiative 82, a hotly contested ballot measure that would raise tipped workers' wages from \$5.35 to \$16.10 by 2027. And hundreds of advi-

sory neighborhood commissioners, who represent parts of the city on a block-by-block basis, will be up for election.

Both voters and candidates across the city include members of the GW community. In 2021, 1,615 students, or 6.9 percent of the University's total student population, were from D.C., according to enrollment data. Nor is it a stretch to assume that many of the 5,379

faculty and staff GW employed in FY 2020 call the District their home, too. And while GW Law Professor Mary Choh will step down from her position as Ward 3 D.C. Council member after serving for the past 16 years, Dasia Bandy, a former candidate for Student Association president, is running to represent her peers and fellow Foggy Bottom residents in ANC 2A07.

Voters in the District may not determine the fate of Congress, but that doesn't mean their decisions don't matter — they'll still be choosing the people they want to chart a course for the city's near future. Giving them Election Day off means they can volunteer as a poll worker, help to get out the vote or simply vote themselves.

It's not as if officials are blind to the fact that people want to participate in elections. GW boasts a variety of resources to help new and experienced voters alike fulfill their civic duty as efficiently as possible. Organizations like GW Votes can give staff, faculty and students resources about voting, but it can't give them what they need the most — time to vote themselves. An unfilled, uncast ballot doesn't count. Making Election Day a holiday isn't radical. It's the logical endpoint of GW's culture of civic participation.

And while officials laud students for their civic participation, it's not enough to give them a day off from class while staff and faculty are ordered to stay at their posts. If GW truly values political participation for its own sake, then it can't praise its "community of scholars" who are "committed to driving positive change in the world" without acknowledging that there are members of staff and faculty who have the same drive and desire as well. As in 2020, staff and faculty need paid time off to vote in every election.

Election Day isn't just another day off at GW, but a chance to celebrate this University's commitment to our democracy. Because whether they're staff, faculty or students like us, everyone at GW deserves a day to make sure their voice is heard.

I'm an Independent, and partisans should stop demanding my loyalty

Like many of GW's politically active students, I'm excited to have cast my first general election ballot, but I'm anxious that a hyper-partisan political scene will scrutinize my vote and demand loyalty that I'm not ready to give.

Noah Hughey
Opinions Writer

I'm an unaffiliated voter — my political values don't strictly align with any one side of the two-party system. In a political landscape quick to label people based on the various beliefs they hold, independent voters should be respected as their own political identity.

Group affiliations built on loyalty are a natural part of human history, but hyper-partisan commitment crosses into dangerous territory. Neither party is a good home for voters like me whose opinions are based on a utilitarian understanding of political issues. I believe in broader ideals like freedom, security and justice applied to individual circumstances, not sweeping ideological mandates centered around the notion that a political party holds a monopoly both on the truth and moral righteousness.

Democrats and Republicans traffic

narratives of heroes and villains that create a fight for the "soul of the nation" — a metaphorical battle that may rally voters but muddles the real-world implications that their policies will have for the sake of total party victory. Worse still, it feeds into a spiteful political discourse that is not reflective of reality and dehumanizes our political opposition.

Partisan loyalty was the standard in my small, western North Carolina hometown. On virtually every issue, my peers viewed one side as simply right and the other as backwards or morally misaligned. And the concept that there could be more than two perspectives on an issue was practically nonexistent.

These accusations often leave me with a lot of stress that I have to be particular in how I vote. I'm not alone, either — 35 percent of Americans identify as Independents, according to an October 2022 Gallup poll.

Despite generally outnumbering Republicans and Democrats every year since 2004, there's a caveat to the Independent label. Partisan affiliation polls lump us into one of the major parties and give the impression that nobody takes our independence seriously. Even if you are an Independent who feels

generally more aligned with one side or the other, that shouldn't mean you have to give up some of your identity to answer a call for loyalty on the side you may sometimes agree with.

In a political field rife with hyper partisanship that's hurting all voters, Independents deserve to have their own identities. The United States political system would benefit from a more diversified electorate that doesn't lump themselves with one side or the other, but thinks and votes on its own accord. Democrats and Republicans alike should approach Independents as people — we're not pawns in the binary two-party system.

It's okay to be a part of a tribe of ideas — it helps us understand a world that's more complex than us. But the narrative that one side or the other is the threat to democracy alone and must be eradicated isn't healthy. If we take the time to understand the political motivations of voters with contrasting identities instead of turning them into faceless villains, we can better hold our political system accountable for its actions, foster a more inclusive voting environment and preserve our democracy.

—Noah Hughey, a freshman, is an opinions writer.

Revised criminal code would establish fairness, justice and safety in D.C.

With laws dating back to the 1800s, D.C.'s current criminal code makes a mockery of justice. The code is actively contributing to injustice and inequity in the District because of its unclear language, unfair sentencing practices and lack of definitions for offenses like simple assault. D.C. officials should support efforts to modernize the city's criminal code by defining criminal offenses, removing outdated language and reversing practices like the overuse of "simple assault" charges.

Jessica Rich
Opinions Writer

D.C. Council members, public defenders and activists agree that the criminal code is long overdue for an update — upon its creation in 1901, women didn't have the right to vote in national elections, and Black people couldn't meaningfully contribute to the legislative process. An overhaul of the code has been in the works since 2006, but the extensive nature of examining, reworking and approving the underpinning of the District's criminal legal system means the process is still ongoing.

D.C.'s archaic criminal

code could theoretically affect each of us, but it doesn't. Though only 45.8 percent of the city's residents identify as Black or African American, they make up 87.4 percent of male inmates and 79.6 percent of female inmates in D.C. jails.

The D.C. Council's Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety voted unanimously to approve the Revised Criminal Code Act of 2022 last Tuesday, but not without some objections. Bowser, whose signature will actually take the act into effect, and Metropolitan Police Department Chief Robert Contee III objected to two separate provisions that they argue would slow down proceedings in D.C. courts. One would allow for the expansion of jury trials to misdemeanors, and the other would expand the right of inmates to petition a judge to vacate those sentences.

Granted, there is a longstanding shortage of judges both in D.C. and across the nation who are already struggling to keep up with trials today. But the truth is that these judges would have a lighter workload if the city actually overhauled its criminal code and took tangible steps to stop crime, limit incarceration or to improve the circumstances of overworked employees and underfunded institutions.

With violence already such a major public safety issue in D.C., the updated criminal code wouldn't ignore violent, criminal behavior — the Council's bill keeps carjacking as a standalone offense and retains mandatory minimum sentences for first-degree murder.

This measure has taken so many years that it would be foolish to let these fears and worries hold us back from enacting change at the last minute. As states like New York eliminate cash bail for certain crimes and reform their criminal codes to avoid criminalizing people in poverty, updating D.C.'s criminal code would ensure justice in the city and set a standard for improving criminal codes and systems of justice across the United States.

D.C. should join states like New Jersey, Colorado and Nevada who have already reformed and continue to reform their justice systems over the past two years to address their racist roots. The overhaul's provisions are critical to ensuring fairness, justice and safety in the District's criminal legal system and promoting morality and equity across the United States.

—Jessica Rich, a freshman majoring in political psychology, is an opinions writer.

The GW Hatchet

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Culture

THE SCENE

DMV BLACK RESTAURANT WEEK
Sunday, Nov. 6 to Sunday Nov. 13 | DMV restaurants | Prices vary
Support local Black-owned businesses, and receive dining discounts and deals with the fifth annual Black Restaurant Week in the DMV.

NATIONAL GALLERY NIGHTS: AMERICANA
Thursday, Nov. 10 | National Gallery of Art | Free admission
Explore the American cultural history with live music, hands-on art making and guided tours.

RELEASED THIS WEEK:

NEW SINGLE: "MY MIND & ME" BY SELENA GOMEZ

GW Athletics, George's Army rallying fan base with tailgates, fan traditions

JENNIFER IGBONOBA
REPORTER

Two years ago, placing cardboard cutouts of cheering fans along the Smith Center stands served as one of the few methods of engagement during basketball games on campus.

But as basketball season revs up, the athletics department and George's Army – the official student section of GW Athletics – are stimulating fan engagement in the student section with a marketing strategy that has revamped since the Smith Center reopened to fans last year. New merch, social media promotions and collaborations with student organizations headline George's Army's plans for the season, while the athletics department organizes game-day tailgates, halftime contests, a food drive with Martha's Table and special recognition of women in sports and veterans to connect the teams with the GW community.

Senior Associate Athletics Director Andy Ruge said the department and George's Army have looked to new methods in fostering a strong, active, Buff-and-Blue-ridden turnout at games – especially in the student section.

"These games are as fun as the students make it," Ruge said. "People go to college basketball games because they love to see the students there. They love to see them having a great time, so getting them involved is a very important part of the fan engagement."

He said the athletics depart-



George's Army Co-President Ryan Puleo said the fan section is marketing the games to student organizations to chase turnout levels that can replicate those of larger state schools.

ment will host fan contests, including "Giant Tic-Tac-Toe," where two fans on opposite sides of the court must make a layout to make a mark on a large tic-tac-toe board in the center of the court.

Both the athletics department and George's Army plan to host tailgates where fans can enjoy a meal and play carnival-like games. Fans can join a tailgate during the

final weekend of November and homecoming weekend, the first weekend of February.

Homecoming weekend will kick off that Friday with the continuation of a Hall of Fame induction ceremony for a new class, including the 1993 basketball team that went to the Sweet 16 of the NCAA tournament. The men's team will play against Duquesne Saturday,

and the women's team will take on George Mason after a tailgate.

GW Athletics will also continue its trademark marketing tactic – food giveaways, which keep fans on edge for free deals that deliver delectable prizes.

Along with the athletics department's efforts, George's Army has a few tricks of its own to heighten fan engagement at GW.

Senior Macy McClintock, one of the co-presidents of George's Army, said George's Army, said students in the organization design and print humorous signs for students, and the organization plans to set up tables prior to the games where students can create their own signs.

McClintock said the fan section plans to continue holding up copies of The Hatchet during the opposing teams' introduction – a jab at the Colonials' competition – and bringing a big box of random Buff and Blue items to games, including fake rosters that poke fun at the opposing teams and Buff-and-Blue-colored wigs.

The organization uses social media to promote events and spur engagement, advertising free apparel at games and posting spirited memes. And don't forget "FanCam" – a repost of fan photos with student athletes that George's Army will continue reposting on their Instagram story this season.

Ryan Puleo, the other co-president of George's Army, said the fan section is targeting student organizations through their marketing to chase higher turnout levels.

"There's always a lot of people involved in their own clubs or whatever, and they're kind of disengaged from the rest of the student body who maybe have different interests, but I think this is one thing that we want to see a lot of students get behind," Puleo said. "So it's important, not only for the athletes on the court, but also the overall campus atmosphere."



COURTESY OF COLIN BOHULA

Korinek prioritized creating an inclusive group, featuring students from a variety of backgrounds and experience levels, because of her past performances as the only woman in lineups at GW and D.C. open mics.

Student comedy groups grow while sharpening skits, expanding shows

ANNA FATTIZZO
REPORTER

NATALIE ARBATMAN
REPORTER

For most people, performing original material on stage in front of hundreds of people is incredibly intimidating, but for the comedians at GW, it's what they love doing most.

GW's comedy scene, which is on the rise now as students have readjusted to in-person campus life over the past year, has seen increased membership and the formulation of new groups, providing students a way to experience comedy at live campus performances and on social media. Student comedy groups have expanded sketch show production, organized training for improv performances and hosted sold-out live shows to connect with students and interact with audience members, all while drawing hundreds of viewers online.

Sophomore Amelia Magel – the senior producer of District Debrief, a sketch comedy show on GWTV – said the roughly 37-student team at District Debrief, which has grown exponentially compared to the six members they had in 2020, works together to pitch stories, write and film sketches and publish a monthly episode comprised of six to seven prerecorded sketches on GWTV.

"That's probably my favorite part, the fact that so many different people can come together with differ-

ent skills and make a good sketch," Magel said.

Magel said District Debrief sketches satirize a wide range of topics relating to the average person's "lived experiences" to relate to a wider audience at GW. Some recent sketches have poked fun at the conventions of on-line dating, the challenges of settling roommate disputes and incessant emailing from on-campus organizations.

Junior Will Roberts, the executive producer of District Debrief, said the organization's community is a "safe space" for anyone looking to be themselves and find their voice, where members can feel comfortable failing in front of each other.

When it comes to live performances on campus, recess – a sketch comedy and improv group at GW – hosts in-person shows for students, which consists of prewritten sketches, long improv and occasional stand-up.

Senior Aman Gill, the group's president, said the group, which she said first formed in 1990, performs once a month for students. She said the group sold out their September show, with about 100 students in attendance.

"I think that people are very aware that we're building something and that we're there to make people laugh," Gill said. "And I think we do a really good job of that."

Every group member in recess writes a sketch and senior group members select the strongest for per-

formance, and the group also plays improv games at meetings to practice quick thinking.

Gill said rebuilding the community of students who consistently come to shows is something the group is working toward now. The group's next show is slated for Nov. 11 in the USC Continental Ballroom, and tickets are \$3 with doors opening at 10 p.m.

Junior Margaret Korinek created GW Comedy Nights, a new stand-up comedy group, which held its first performance in September at the Lisner Downstage. The show featured 10 comics, including Korinek, who headlined and closed the show. Korinek, who also serves as director for the shows, said about 220 students attended, exceeding turnout expectations.

"It was eye-opening to see just how many students are not only interested in being a part of the comedy scene, but also students who are willing to come and support their peers who they don't necessarily know and see stand-up and see comedy on campus," Korinek said.

The group has two preparation meetings before a show where comics can test material and receive feedback from other members about delivering and writing effective jokes. Korinek hopes these meetings build a connection between performers.

The group's next show is Dec. 9 at 8 p.m. in the Lisner Downstage theater, and tickets will cost \$3.

How to practice self-love as cuffing season approaches

CHLOE KILANO
REPORTER

'Tis the season of warm hot chocolate, crunchy leaves beneath your shoes, dropping temperatures, flannel jackets and the universally dreaded cuffing season.

Those of us who are single understand the annoyance that comes from scrolling through an endless feed of romantic social media posts. As hard as it can be, it's crucial to date yourself through this chilly time of year when many of us are drawn to romantic relationships for their comfort and stability.

So as you figure out how to navigate independence this fall, here are a few concrete steps you can take to practice self-sufficiency and self-love:

Leaf through self-help books

Self-help books offer invaluable advice about how to foster a relationship with yourself, build your sense of confidence and self and fall in love with life. Take advantage of tactics like practicing gratitude and engaging in activities that reach out of your comfort zone.

Discover the power of detaching from others' expectations as you seek to understand to your deeper, valued needs in "Untamed" by Glennon Doyle. Transform your perspective on being alone and learn to appreciate the gift of time spent with yourself in Chidera Eggerue's "What a Time to Be Alone:

The Slumflower's Guide to Why You Are Already Enough."

Grabbing an encouraging book can help you disconnect from the societal expectation that you find a partner during cuffing season and learn more about your relationship with yourself. The right book can teach you how to stimulate your own mind rather than relying on a partner to keep you entertained.

Practice daily affirmations

In place of the serotonin rush that a good morning text from your partner may give you, wake up each morning, look in the mirror and tell yourself three things you love about yourself. It'll feel awkward or ineffective the first few times you practice it, but the experience will feel wonderful when you've repeated the affirmations enough times to rewire your brain into believing them. If you're not sure where to start, try writing these affirmations down or saying them out loud the next time you're looking in the mirror:

- I am whole.
- I am my own best friend.
- I love each part of myself.
- I am confident and secure.

To find some more affirmations, check out the app "I am" for personalized affirmations that pop up on your phone. The app allows you to choose categories of affirmations, like financial growth or body positivity, and choose how often you receive affirmations on

your phone. Your frequent thoughts inevitably evolve into beliefs. Accept yourself for the wonderful person you are – you deserve it.

Date yourself

Ah, the dreaded "you need to learn to date yourself before you can date someone else." If you've heard it, you've probably let out an irritated sigh in response. But it's true – if you can't give yourself love, how are you supposed to give it to someone else?

Establish your own definition of love by engaging in all of the activities you would with a partner. You can buy your favorite tulips when they're in season, grab your favorite iced matcha or purchase an oversized sweater. While a partner may fail to meet your needs, you will always live up to your own expectations.

Regardless of whatever it may be, you deserve to be loved above and beyond your expectations.

Whatever you do, don't reach out to your ex

If there's any piece of advice you take, let it be this one. They simply aren't worth it.

The holiday season can be difficult to get through, and putting in the work to appreciate your independence can be even harder. But there's no feeling more rewarding than that of being your own best friend. During this and every season, you deserve to be loved – especially by yourself.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY AVA PITRUZZELLO

While a partner may fail to meet your standards, you can always live up to your own expectations.



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BASKETBALL GUIDE:

SEASON OUTLOOK

Men's Schedule

Home Away
 H Hawaiian Airlines Diamond Head Classic
 A-10 A-10 games

NOVEMBER 2022

- 7 At Virginia State 7:00 PM
- 11 At Howard 6:00 PM
- 14 At Hofstra 7:00 PM
- 18 At Maryland Eastern Shore 7:00 PM
- 22 At UC San Diego 7:00 PM
- 26 At New Hampshire 2:00 PM
- 30 At South Carolina 9:00 PM

DECEMBER 2022

- 4 At Radford 2:00 PM
- 10 At American 4:00 PM
- 13 At Coppin State 6:00 PM
- 22 At Washington State H 9:00 PM
- 23 At TBD H TBD
- 25 At TBD H TBD
- 31 At Loyola Chicago A-10 4:00 PM

JANUARY 2023

- 4 At Richmond A-10 7:00 PM
- 7 At Massachusetts A-10 2:00 PM
- 14 At Saint Louis A-10 4:00 PM
- 16 At George Mason A-10 4:00 PM
- 21 At Dayton A-10 12:30 PM
- 25 At Saint Joseph's A-10 7:00 PM
- 28 At Fordham A-10 2:00 PM

FEBRUARY 2023

- 1 At La Salle A-10 7:00 PM
- 4 At Duquesne A-10 2:00 PM
- 8 At Richmond A-10 7:00 PM
- 11 At Saint Joseph's A-10 1:00 PM
- 15 At George Mason A-10 7:00 PM
- 19 At St. Bonaventure A-10 2:00 PM
- 22 At Rhode Island A-10 7:00 PM
- 25 At La Salle A-10 6:00 PM

MARCH 2023

- 1 At Davidson A-10 7:00 PM
- 4 At VCU A-10 4:30 PM

Women's Schedule

Home Away
 U UNLV Thanksgiving Tournament
 A-10 A-10 games

NOVEMBER 2022

- 7 At Virginia 5:00 PM
- 10 At UMES 6:00 PM
- 14 At Howard 7:00 PM
- 17 At American 7:00 PM
- 20 At Cal State Fullerton NOON
- 25 At ETSU U 4:30 PM
- 26 At TBD U TBA
- 27 At TBD U TBA

DECEMBER 2022

- 2 At Ohio 6:00 PM
- 5 At TCU 7:30 PM
- 9 At Manhattan 6:00 PM
- 13 At Wilmington (Del.) 3:00 PM
- 22 At Coppin State NOON
- 31 At Richmond A-10 NOON

JANUARY 2023

- 4 At Saint Joseph's A-10 6:00 PM
- 8 At St. Bonaventure A-10 1:00 PM
- 11 At Fordham A-10 NOON
- 14 At La Salle University A-10 NOON
- 16 At George Mason A-10 NOON
- 22 At VCU A-10 NOON
- 25 At Loyola Chicago A-10 NOON
- 28 At Dayton A-10 1:30 PM

FEBRUARY 2023

- 1 At Duquesne A-10 6:00 PM
- 5 At George Mason A-10 NOON
- 8 At Rhode Island A-10 6:00 PM
- 11 At Saint Louis A-10 8:00 PM
- 18 At Loyola Chicago A-10 1:30 PM
- 22 At Davidson A-10 6:00 PM
- 25 At Massachusetts A-10 4:00 PM

NICHOLAS ANASTACIO | GRAPHICS EDITOR

High-stakes women's basketball games to watch

KRISTI WIDJAJA
 REPORTER

Women's basketball kicks off its new season Monday, entering a 13-game stretch of nonconference games before turning to two months' worth of play against their Atlantic 10 competition, where they look to take on powerhouses like Massachusetts and Dayton.

16
 Number of GW's A-10 matchups

The Colonials will play a total of 16 conference games that will decide the team's seeding for the A-10 tournament, and the majority of each game will be televised by CBS Sports Network, ESPN+ and NBC Sports Washington. GW looks to avoid the same conference slide they experienced last season, finishing in 12th place in the 14-team A-10 with a 4-11 record and .343 field goal percentage, which ranked last in the conference.

The Colonials began their conference play last season with an eight-game losing streak, which included huge losses to Massachusetts and Rhode Island, both of whom they will face in February.

Here are some games to look out for as the season gets underway:

November - Virginia matchup marks first test on the road

GW will play its first game in Charlottesville against Virginia, followed by four straight games in D.C. where they will clash against cross-town rivals American and Howard in two away games. The Colonials will play their home opener in the Smith Center Thursday against Maryland Eastern Shore.

The team will then turn its attention to the University of Nevada, Las Vegas Thanksgiving Tournament

with a pair of face-offs against East Tennessee State University and Albany before entering the winter stretch.

The Colonials will look to build up to a stronger start to the season with their non-conference stretch.

December - GW takes on Coppin State before A-10 slate

The Colonials begin their conference slate in late December, aiming for a stronger start than last season when an eight-game losing streak to open A-10 play forced them into an uphill climb for the rest of the season.

GW will return home to take on Ohio Dec. 2 before traveling south for a matchup against TCU. The Colonials return to the Smith Center for a three-game home stretch against Manhattan, Wilmington and Coppin State to round out their nonconference stretch.

The Colonials will begin conference play Dec. 31 with an away game at Richmond, to whom they narrowly lost 63-66 in last season's conference opener.

January - The Colonials square off against reigning A-10 champs

GW will play its first nationally televised game of the season Jan. 16 at noon against George Mason in the first game of the Revolutionary Rivalry with the Patriots. Fans can attend the game at George Mason's EagleBank Arena in Fairfax or watch the game live through the CBS Sports Network.

Last season, GW tied its season series 1-1 against George Mason, who finished last in the A-10 with a 10-19 record. The Colonials look to improve their 3-point shooting against the Patriots after managing a meager .271 percent from beyond the arc last season.

The Colonials will be out for revenge Jan. 22 against

VCU, who eliminated them from the A-10 Championship last season.

The GW team will play its second nationally televised game of the season Jan. 25 against A-10 newcomer Loyola Chicago at home. Fans can follow along live on NBC Sports.

GW's toughest game of the month will come with a Jan. 28 matchup against Dayton, who went 14-1 in conference play last season, narrowly missing out on the A-10 crown. The lone matchup between the Colonials and the Flyers last season was canceled due to COVID-19.

February - Regular season enters final stretch with stiff conference competition

GW will play its last two Smith Center games before heading to Massachusetts, including its Homecoming Weekend from Friday, Feb. 1 to Sunday, Feb. 3, where the program will induct its Hall of Fame Class of 2023. The Colonials will face off against George Mason for the second time Feb. 5 to wrap up the weekend games.

The team will look for a win against Rhode Island, who finished 12-2 in conference play and beat the Colonials 72-42 last season.

GW will face one of its toughest tests of the conference slate Feb. 25 when they take on Massachusetts, the reigning A-10 champions who went 11-4 in conference play last season. Massachusetts claimed a decisive 68-41 win over GW in their last meeting.

The GW team will look to achieve a higher seeding in the A-10 tournament than last season, where GW placed as the 12th seed.

The Colonials are set to showcase a newly rebuilt program with six newcomers ready to solidify the GW shooting game under Head Coach Caroline McCombs, who enters her second year at the helm.



JENNIFER IGBONOBA | PHOTOGRAPHER
 The Colonials are set to showcase a newly rebuilt program with six newcomers ready to bolster GW's shooting under Head Coach Caroline McCombs, who enters her second year at the helm of the team.

Men's basketball sets expectations high under Caputo

LUKE WIENECKE
 STAFF WRITER

Men's basketball is set to begin its first season under Head Coach Chris Caputo, hoping to improve on last year's 12-18 record and a ninth-place finish in the Atlantic 10 Championship.

GW hired Caputo to lead the program in April after serving as the associate head coach at the University of Miami, where he helped coach the team to the NCAA tournament five times, including an Elite Eight run last season. Officials fired former Head Coach Jamion Christian in March after three straight losing seasons, prompting two of the team's leading scorers, guards Joe Bamisile and Brayon Freeman, to transfer in April.

In the program's 109th year, Caputo will take on the challenge of turning

around a program that hasn't seen an NCAA tournament berth since 2014. GW reached the tournament five times in the 1990s and four times between 2005 and 2014 but has slipped into a drought since then.

"It hasn't been compounded over time to where you can look back and say, well, over 15 or 20 years, we've been really good," Caputo said. "And so I think my job is to try to get us to be a successful program in the short term, but can we build out a program that is sustainable over many, many years?"

Caputo quickly got to work building his program's infrastructure, compiling his coaching staff and hiring a recruiting and operations director within the first month of his tenure. He also filled the team's backcourt vacancies with redshirt

freshman guard Max Edwards, who transferred from Kansas State after one year, and graduate guard EJ Clark, who spent three years at Alabama State.

Both guards will help fill the gaps left by Bamisile and Freeman and play an influential role in Caputo's five-out, perimeter-focused offense. Edwards is set to present challenges to opposing defenses with his larger, 6'5" frame and quickness.

"Max is a really talented guy that came from Kansas State, and we looked at him really as a true freshman because he was hurt a lot last year," Caputo said. "He had never played for Kansas State, but as a true freshman he's shown a lot of ability and diversity of skill."

With fresh faces on the court and the sideline, a strong core of return-

ing veterans will anchor the team as it enters the Caputo era. Senior guard James Bishop IV and senior forward Ricky Lindo Jr. will lead the Colonials after logging significant minutes last season.

"I've tried to be a leader just with how I come to practice and my energy," Bishop said. "The underclassmen definitely came in with a lot of energy and all the guys came in ready to learn, ready to listen and ready to be a part of what we got here."

Lindo enters his fifth year of college and final year of eligibility after leading the squad in double-doubles and ranking second in defensive rebounds in the A-10 last season. Caputo said he hopes to keep the forward out of foul trouble this year after it limited his playing time in some games last year.

Caputo said he expects Lindo to regularly put up strong point and rebound totals, looking to him as a "double-double guy."

Lindo said he's taking his role as a veteran this year seriously and hopes to inspire the younger players on the team to build a culture of investment in and commitment to the team.

"I'm one of the most experienced players on his team, so just making sure I'm leading these young guys, even the guys I've been with for a few years, leading them, just making sure we're all cohesive and all together," Lindo said.

Following the season tipoff Nov. 7, the first month of the schedule will feature exclusively out-of-conference opponents, including a Nov. 30 matchup with South Carolina that will mark the first time the Colonials host

a Power Five conference school at the Smith Center since 2017. A-10 Conference play will begin on New Year's Eve against Loyola Chicago, a game that comes on the heels of the Hawaiian Airlines Diamond Head Classic, a three-day invitational tournament played in Honolulu.

Caputo emphasized the warm reception he has received in his introduction as head coach, saying the community has welcomed him with open arms and he looks forward to fan support throughout the season.

"It's so important that we have student support and I'm really looking forward to that this year," Caputo said.

The Colonials season will officially tip off Monday night against Virginia State at the Smith Center at 7 p.m.

BASKETBALL GUIDE:

MEN'S BASKETBALL PREVIEW

Men's basketball looks to bolster defense for A-10 play

TYLER BLADE
REPORTER

Whether it's protecting the paint or closing out on perimeter shots, men's basketball is making defense central to the team's identity.

Newly hired Head Coach Chris Caputo said the team is looking to protect the perimeter, prevent shots in the paint and limit the number of fouls that lead to free throws as the team tries to bolster its defense. He said with the addition of two new guards – quick and agile graduate student E.J. Clark and 6-foot-5 redshirt freshman Max Edwards – the team will form a tougher defensive wall closer to the paint, with both guards providing more depth to the guard position, which he hopes will translate to higher defensive intensity.

"Trying to protect the paint a little bit better, now that sometimes comes with giving up threes, but you try to play inside out, take away the inside first and then the rim," Caputo said. "Inside first and then the 3-point line, but you certainly know that if you're giving up a lot of shots

at the rim, you're going to foul, you're going to give up a high percentage of fouls. So for us, the emphasis has been on trying to protect the basketball."

Defense was the Colonials' weak point last season – GW's defense ranked 12th out of 14 teams in the Atlantic 10 last year after giving up 72.8 points per game. During the A-10 Championship tournament, the Colonials struggled to stifle their opponents' scoring runs, especially inside the paint.

The Colonials finished the season with a 12-18 A-10 record and went 1-3 in the A-10 Championship, marking an improvement from the 2020-21 season, when the team only managed a 5-12 record and a second-round conference tournament exit.

Sports Illustrated's pre-season A-10 poll picked the Colonials to finish in 11th last season, but they ended up as the seventh seed at the A-10 tournament, placing four spots higher than any of the past five seasons.

During his time as the associate head coach at Miami, Caputo focused on a

"pesky scramble defense" that looked to interrupt opponents' offensive rhythm and force key turnovers to boost offensive chances. The Miami team used this defensive style last season to great success, reaching the Sweet 16 in the NCAA tournament.

"I think we want to play in a way that is very free flowing," Caputo said. "We want to take advantage of our strengths, but really want to share the ball, like the idea that we are a program that is going to play selflessly, it's very important to me. When you play that way, it attracts people to your program."

Caputo said keeping the players in "great" physical shape and holding them responsible for their defensive assignments will be vital to keeping the team accountable.

"We've really spent a lot of time in the last two months on our defense since school started trying to build out a defensive identity and habits defensively," Caputo said. "Ultimately, getting in great shape and being held accountable to your discipline defensively is so important,



FILE PHOTO BY JORDYN BAILER | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR
Defense was the Colonials' weak point last season – GW's defense ranked 12th out of 14 teams in the A-10 last year after giving up 72.8 points per game.

and so we're going to try to take steps in the right direction there. Sometimes, to be a good defensive team, you have to have good defenders, but what we will strive to do is to make it important to the guys in the program."

Senior forward Ricky Lindo Jr. said the team has learned to talk more on the court to improve communication on defense and build trust between players, vocalizing where they each need to be to guard the ball.

"As a team, just make sure we're all just cohesive," Lindo said. "And listen to what Coach Caputo says because he knows what's best for us. So we have to trust what he says so we can have the best season we can have."



NURIA DIAZ | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Forward Keegan Harvey and guards Maximus Edwards and E.J. Clark will look to lock down access to the paint against high-scoring teams and force turnovers.

Men's basketball welcomes three transfers to roster

BEN SPITALNY
REPORTER

MARK RAPPAPORT
REPORTER

Three new additions are joining the ranks of men's basketball and trying to filling the shoes of former star guards Joe Bamisile and Brayon Freeman as the team rebuilds its backcourt.

Redshirt freshman guard Maximus Edwards, graduate student guard E.J. Clark and junior forward Keegan Harvey will look to lock down access to the paint against high-scoring teams and force turnovers. Edwards and Harvey said they will play aggressive defense and crash the glass to maximize the team's possessions, while Clark plans to leverage his shooting abilities to give the backcourt added depth on offense.

Head Coach Chris Caputo said the addition of Edwards and Clark will pay dividends on both ends of the court, bringing a higher defensive intensity and more shooting opportunities for players.

"EJ is a guy who provides depth at the guard position, a guy who can play on and off the ball, has shown the ability to make shots throughout his career," Caputo said. "And they can give a lot of defensive intensity on the ball for us, which is one of the things we need."

Clark transferred from Alabama State in June after two seasons over which he appeared in 41 games. Clark averaged 8 points per game during his senior year while shooting a 42.6 percent clip from behind the 3-point line. He said his coaches from his junior college – Bossier Parish Community College in Louisiana – helped facilitate phone calls between himself and Caputo, eventually leading to his recruitment to GW in the spring semester.

Clark said he was drawn to Caputo's fast-paced play-

ing style and experience in the NCAA tournament, where Caputo reached the Elite Eight as the associate head coach for the University of Miami. Standing at 5'11", Clark said his "short" height and agility fits well with high-speed plays, where he can create shot opportunities for himself and for his teammates as a playmaker.

Clark said Caputo has taken the team under his wing since April with weekly team dinners to build team chemistry and bond with them off the hardwood.

He said he looks forward to seeing students attend the games in the coming season, helping guide new players to play hard and play smart as a veteran college basketball player.

"Come back out the gym, we need the crowd," Clark said. "The crowd matters more than what you think."

Junior forward Keegan Harvey, one of the tallest players on the team at a towering 6'11", is a 2021 spring transfer from the College of Charleston but was unable to play last season due to NCAA transfer rules requiring players to sit out for a year after a second transfer. Originally hailing from Newcastle, Australia, Harvey has played under four head coaches throughout his college career, he said Caputo has been the most organized and goal-oriented of any of them. He said Caputo identifies and communicates skills that he wants the team to develop on offense and defense, and he communicates them through a series of bullet points outlining the priorities of each practice.

Harvey said the team has identified communication and defensive rebounding as two of its top goals for improvement this season after spotting scrimmages. He said the team has honed in on both early on with consistent training to construct

a system that will enhance plays throughout the season.

Redshirt freshman guard Maximus Edwards, a transfer student from Kansas State, spent an entire year without playing due to an injury before he came to GW.

He said he has during the offseason, he has focused on improving his 3-point shooting and maintaining a healthy diet to keep his body as healthy as possible and build the stamina to last the duration of a game.

He said the team plans to double down on interior defense this season to keep opponents outside the paint while collecting more boards to turn into turnovers. He said the team's goal is to win the A-10 Championship and return to its status as a conference threat.

"Just know that GW basketball is back," Edwards said. "Caputo is changing it, and we're going to be good. We're going to have a great year. And we just need all the students to come support us."

Lindo Jr. leading by example in final season

JARROD WARDWELL
EDITOR IN CHIEF

When men's basketball Head Coach Chris Caputo blows the whistle at the end of practice, the team jogs into a huddle at the Smith Center's half-court logo, where nodding heads and heaving chests signal the end of a productive workout.

But standing out from the bunch, one player, standing at 6'8" inches with No. 4 printed on the back of his practice jersey, hunches over the group with his arms draped over his teammates in a supportive embrace. Senior forward Ricky Lindo Jr. doesn't hide his emotions around his team, whether he's chirping at them following a rough foul or high-fiving them at the sound of Caputo's whistle.

"I was being more emotional at this practice, but it goes for all the practices, making sure I'm emotional, making sure the team, the coaches there know that I'm invested in what we're doing, so they can fall behind me," he said.

Lindo is entering his last season of college basketball with a sense of responsibility as a team leader with four years in the NCAA already under his belt and a team looking to capitalize on a promising outlook for the program's future. Lindo led the team with 286 rebounds last season, registering 7.8 boards per game, the second-highest rate in the A-10.

"I'm one of the most experienced players on this team, so just making sure I'm leading these young guys, even the guys I've been with for a few years, leading them and stuff like that, just making sure we're all cohesive and all together," he said.

The new season will mark Lindo's second as a senior on the team, granted an extra year of eligibility in the

NCAA, alongside all other Division I athletes who lost out on a spring season in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

He will ride out his final season at GW under the fresh leadership of Caputo, who has injected life back into the program after officials fired former Head Coach Jamion Christian in March and lost two of its star players who transferred in the following month. Caputo served as the associate head coach at Miami and helped push the team to an Elite Eight appearance earlier this year under Jim Larrañaga, Miami's head coach since 2011 who gained national attention for leading George Mason on a Cinderella run to the Final Four of the NCAA Tournament in 2006.

Lindo said the coaching staff has held the team accountable on the court during the off-season, placing a major emphasis on communication leading up to the start of the season.

"We're just trying to listen to everything our new coach, Coach Caputo, tells us to do," Lindo said. "He's coming from a winning program with Coach Larrañaga from Miami and Miami being in the Elite Eight, so he brings a lot of experience, a lot of winning to the program. So we're just going to try to do our best to follow what he says, follow what the assistant coaches say and just do our best this season, trying to upset a lot of people."

Lindo said the team has focused on talking more during its practices, with players being more vocal about their relative position on the court to build trust with one another as plays develop on the court. In his interview with The Hatchet last month, he said the team's communication was "not at its best," but with a few weeks left before the start of the season, he expressed optimism that the players would continue to improve heading into the season opener.

"We got new coaches, we got a few new players, so we're still getting adjusted to what the coaching staff wants from us, compared to last year," he said. "And so it's coming along, but it's definitely getting better each day."

Lindo said his "biggest focus" lies on the Atlantic 10 Championship, where Massachusetts eliminated the Colonials in the second round last season shortly before the ensuing fallout of Christian's firing and the transfers of guards Joe Bamisile and Brayon Freeman. He said Caputo "knows what's best" for the team, so players need to maintain their trust in his decision-making if they want the best odds at staging a competitive run in the post-season.

"That's where your name gets out there the most, obvi-

ously, what you do in the season, but in the playoffs, tournament time is where all the lights are on," he said. "So personally that's where I want to excel at."

To grow his own game as one of the team's projected starters, Lindo is working to fine-tune his jump shot and cut down on fouls, a category he led the team in with 80 fouls last season, averaging nearly three per game. He said showing his hands to keep them visible to the referees at all times during the game will help keep him out of trouble and on the court to avoid early exits by way of fouling out.

Off the court, Lindo said he and the rest of men's basketball can be found in South Hall, where a majority of the team lives to bond in preparation for the season. From sharing space in each other's living rooms to traversing to the new dining hall in Thurston Hall, Lindo said the team has taken advantage of the off-season to talk about all things, basketball or not.

And between South, Thurston or Smith, Lindo said despite his tall stature, fans should greet him along the way.

"I'm a nice guy," Lindo said. "I may look tall and intimidating, but I'm a nice guy. I'm a friendly giant. So if you guys see me on the street, just talk to me."

A-10 BASKETBALL PRE-SEASON POLL		MEN
1	DAYTON	
2	SAINT LOUIS	
3	VCU	
4	LOYOLA CHICAGO	
5	GEORGE MASON	
6	DAVIDSON	
7	RICHMOND	
8	MASSACHUSETTS	
9	RHODE ISLAND	
10	ST. BONAVENTURE	
11	FORDHAM	
12	GEORGE WASHINGTON	
13	SAINT JOSEPH'S	
14	LA SALLE	
15	DUQUESNE	

NICHOLAS ANASTACIO | GRAPHICS EDITOR



MYA NAIRI | PHOTOGRAPHER

BASKETBALL GUIDE: WOMEN'S BASKETBALL PREVIEW

Women's basketball focuses on repetition with 3-point shooting

ERIKA FILTER
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Over the course of the past two months, players on the women's basketball team have shot more than 250 3-point at every practice as part of what the team calls the "Curry Club" – a 3-point shooting program the coaching staff developed around a model of NBA star Stephen Curry's daily practice routine.

The Colonials struggled with 3-point shooting last season – hitting at a measly .271 percent clip, ranking second to last in the A-10 behind Saint Louis – but the coaching staff has developed strategies, like implementing the Curry Club program into practices, to make the team more comfortable taking long-range shots. Head Coach Caroline McCombs recruited three sharp shooters and trained returning players to overcome previous barriers to getting good looks from beyond the arc, like lack of movement on the baseline.

"I think our players that are returning have definitely improved those capabilities," McCombs said in an interview.

McCombs said she has recruited four new guards who are "very good" 3-point shooters – graduate student Mia Lakstigalya, graduate student guard Jayla Thornton, junior guard Asjah Inniss and freshman Nya Robertson.

"It's kind of something that they're more specialized in as well," she said.

As Pennsylvania's team captain during her senior v,



FILE PHOTO BY TYLER KRAMBEER | PHOTOGRAPHER
The Colonials finished last season ranked 207th out of 356 D1 teams in 3-point shots made. Only St. Bonaventure and George Mason ranked lower among A-10 teams.

Lakstigalya made five of 10 attempted 3-point shots in a game against Brown University.

Lastigalya started all 22 games she played last season at Pennsylvania, averaging 10.9 points and making 2.14 threes per game, and ranked seventh in the Ivy League in 3-point percentage.

Over her career across Syracuse and Howard, Thornton shot 33.7 percent on 3-point shots.

Inniss hit on 20 out of 49 shots from beyond the arc last season at Northwest Florida State, good for 40.8 percent.

Robertson was the 3-point leader in her conference at Fort Worth in 2022, making 114 triples. McCombs said Robertson shoots the three "at a high

level."
"I think she's going to be a dynamic guard in our program," she said. "She could play on and off the ball as well."

Redshirt senior forward Mayowa Taiwo said the team struggled to hit uncontested 3-point shots in past seasons, so players have worked to identify open spots on the court during the off-season to allow for more scoring opportunities this year.

"I think the more of those shots we get, the higher percentage you'll see," she said.

The Colonials finished last season ranked 207th out of 356th D1 teams in 3-point shots made. Only St. Bonaventure and George Mason ranked lower among A-10 schools.

Senior forward Faith Blethen said this year's 3-point shot selection is "much better" in practices. She said the team has followed the Curry Club program over the summer while focusing on improving their driving lanes to increase scoring on all fronts.

"People have been in the gym and really working on their 3-point shot," she said.

Senior guard Essence Brown said thanks to the Curry Club program, players are set on hitting goals for 3-point shooting throughout the season to maintain consistency alongside their range. She said team members are learning to create separation with screens to take more shots.

Nya Lok looks to finish strong after improbable career

CLARA DUHON
CULTURE EDITOR

Senior guard Nya Lok only entered the basketball scene when she filled in for her high school's club team on a whim, but since then, she's emerged as a defensive asset for the women's basketball team at GW.

Lok, hailing from Melbourne, Australia, said she transferred from Midland College in Texas to GW in May 2021 because she wanted to join a "family-oriented" team, which she found at GW through support from the coaching staff and players on and off the court. Lok has become one of the team's leading scorers at the 3-point line while playing a key role in the team's defense surging through driving lanes to closely contest shots from deep.

As Lok moves forward in her senior year, she's working to improve her defensive strategy to keep the competition on their toes, but has also enjoyed bonding with the team off the court, gathering for pizza nights, watching movies and spending downtime with her teammates.

Lok said the team devotes themselves to small commitments that help transform them into better players in the long term. She said she feels that each player on the team holds one another accountable, encouraging the entire team to stick to their goals, like staying consistent throughout the A-10 slate.

"It's those little commitments every day that make you one percent better, so then by the end of the year, you're like, 365 percent better than you were at the start, and then that's what will get you there," she said.

Lok said she started playing basketball in high school when she joined the school's club team as a replacement for another player. Her experience as a substitute on her high school's club team led to a permanent spot on the team and later a roster spot on a more competitive club, which eventually culminated in the opportunity to pursue basketball at the U.S. collegiate level.

Her career progressed at Midland College, where she spent two seasons and was chosen as the National Junior College Athletic Association Region V Player of the Week three times in the 2021-21 season.

In the summer of 2021, Lok – born in an Ethiopian refugee camp after her parents fled Sudan during the nation's civil war – made history by participating in South Sudan's first international women's basketball team. Lok tackled point guard duties for the team, and after averaging 12 points and 3.2 assists per game, she earned the rank of the tournament's "All-Star Five."

Since her move to GW, Lok said she's found herself on her feet more often – whether rushing between classes or spending more

time on the court. She said she'd noticed a heavier class workload, a quicker pace in games and a hike in practices over the summer compared to her experience at Midland College.

She said she got the hang of this heightened pace of play during her first few games on the team, but she had a "rough" time keeping up with the competition after opponents started learning how to defend her after studying her film that revealed more about her techniques and skills on the court.

"I feel like people get smarter and so you have to keep putting in the work to keep up with the pace of it," she said.

Last season, Lok appeared in 24 games, starting in 11 and averaging 5.8 points per game, 2.4 rebounds per game and 16.7 minutes played. Lok has been one of the integral players at the 3-point line, which could translate into a higher-scoring team this season.

Lok said she's committed to improving her defense and communication on the court to better collaborate with the squad this season. She said players set aside 15 minutes before each practice to develop their targeted skills, which, for Lok, means practicing defensive slides to quicken her feet.

She said she and her teammates have put up at least 250 3-point shots, or "Curry shots," each practice throughout the off-season as part of a program designed by NBA star Stephen Curry – who takes a minimum of 250 shots per day. She said the consistent work from deep-range will help increase the team's shooting percentage after shooting 34.3 percent from the field last season.

"There's a lot of accountability, discipline, teamwork," she said. "So there's all these characteristics that you learn through basketball, and I feel like that takes you over to real life because those characteristics are qualities that people need in the real world."

She said fellow senior teammates like forward Mayowa Taiwo, guard Essence Brown, forward Faith Blethen and guard Sheslanie Laureano have helped her vocalize the steps players need to take on the court to become better players.

"They're very good at encouraging each other," she said. "I mean, they use their voices a lot and communicate to make sure people know where they are on the floor or where they need to be."

With on-court scrimmages and team outings, Lok said the players always come together and further their relationships with one another.

"You start to build a different type of family, and you both strive for the same goals and the same commitment," she said. "So I just feel like it's the relationships that keep you in the game."

GW seniors look to inspire teammates, cement legacy

GABE LOPEZ
CONTRIBUTING SPORTS EDITOR

Nearly two years ago, women's basketball was thrown into a state of flux by the abrupt firing of then-Head Coach Jennifer Rizzotti. Now, this year's seniors, the last players with ties to the Rizzotti era, are looking to cement their legacy as pillars of stability amid one of the most tumultuous periods in program history.

For redshirt senior forward Mayowa Taiwo, senior forward Faith Blethen and senior guard Essence Brown, this season is about striving toward group success and instilling team-first values in their younger teammates. As Head Coach Caroline McCombs enters her second season at the helm of the program, the trio of seniors has all taken on leadership roles, with a particular focus on guiding the incoming freshmen through the challenging adjustment to Division I-level play.

"I feel like it's been a process for the three of us over the past four years," Blethen said. "We've gone through coaching changes together, gone through teammate changes, staff



COURTESY OF JULIAN COLTRE
For redshirt senior forward Mayowa Taiwo, senior forward Faith Blethen and senior guard Essence Brown, this season is about striving toward team success and instilling team-first values in their younger teammates.

changes, all of those things. I think we've learned a lot of things that make us more prepared for each season."

Blethen said because only three players remained after former Head Coach Jenifer Rizzotti was fired in March 2021, the responsibility fell on them to acclimate the new coaching staff to GW and D.C. and help their incoming teammates adjust to the

new program and life as a student-athlete.

Blethen said the team worked on spreading the floor during the off-season to allow for a more aggressive, slashing style of play. She said this summer provided her and the other seniors the opportunity to help build a strong team culture by encouraging players to spend time together off the court.

"I think the most important thing we do though actually is how much time we spend together and the relationships that we're building on and off the court because I feel like this team has some of the best chemistry I've ever been around," Blethen said. Blethen said the team will rely on the chemistry cultivated off the court to breed success on the hardwood, particularly on the defensive end, where she said they play "like a pack."

"At our core, we've always been a defensive team," she said. "Our defensive strategy has changed."

Brown said the coaching change last season cultivated the mental fortitude the team will need this season when the going gets tough. She said her time with the program has been a "great journey"

with a lot of changes over the years that have allowed her to better adapt and grow on and off the court.

Brown said the seniors have placed a special emphasis on defense, focusing on footwork with their strength coach and actively working on team defense in practices.

She said the team has been training different aspects of their offense, like filling the zone, coming off stagger screens and getting shots up quicker. She said she's excited to implement the new offense in a real-game setting.

Taiwo said the team has focused on working on players' individual skill sets over the off-season in an effort to boost confidence, especially when it comes to 3-point shooting, a weak point for the squad last season.

"I think we struggled to find easy 3-point shots, and that's what we've been working to fight for, to get to those spots that have the highest percentage, which are kick-out threes for us," Taiwo said.

Taiwo said the team needs to kick off the season with a better start than last year, when the team stumbled out of the gate, losing the first eight games of their nonconference slate.

A-10 BASKETBALL PRESEASON POLL **WOMEN**

- 1 DAYTON
- 2 RHODE ISLAND
- 3 FORDHAM
- 4 SAINT LOUIS (TIED)
- 4 VCU (TIED)
- 6 MASSACHUSETTS
- 7 RICHMOND
- 8 LA SALLE
- 9 DUQUESNE
- 10 SAINT JOSEPH'S
- 11 DAVIDSON
- 12 GEORGE WASHINGTON
- 13 ST. BONAVENTURE
- 14 GEORGE MASON

NICHOLAS ANASTACIO | GRAPHICS EDITOR



COURTESY OF JULIAN COLTRE
Lok said she's committed to improving her defense and communication on the court to better collaborate with the squad this season.