

# The GW Hatchet

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FILE PHOTO BY RACHEL SCHWARTZ | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

Officials said their decision to increase GW's acceptance rate and no longer shy away from admitting "higher-caliber applicants" out of the fear those applicants might not enroll once accepted led to the larger freshman class.

## Total enrollment continues four-year decline, despite more diverse freshman class: report

**CAITLIN KITSON**  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The number of students enrolled at GW has continued to fall this school year as part of a four-year decline, a report the Faculty Senate revealed Friday.

Jay Goff, the vice provost for enrollment and student success, said 25,939 total undergraduate and graduate students are enrolled this semester, a roughly two percent decrease from last fall when officials tallied 26,457 students. Goff said the dip comes as officials enlisted the largest class of new students since 2018, with 2,985 freshmen and transfer students.

Goff said the number of underrepresented minority freshmen who identify as Black, Latino and Indigenous rose from 530 last fall to 642 this semester, while the number of first-generation and Pell Grant recipients rose during the same span by more than 50 and 60 students, respectively. He said while international freshman enrollment is on the rise, officials are still working to elevate international enrollment levels after they faltered under the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, with 150 fewer international freshmen enrolled than in fall 2019.

"We've attracted one of the largest, most talented and

diverse first-year classes in GW's history," Goff said.

Goff said 2,985 new students – including 2,941 freshmen and 44 transfer students – enrolled this semester, exceeding last fall's new student enrollment by about 10 percent and surpassing officials' goal by about five percent. He said officials aimed to enroll a larger number of students this academic year to offset the pandemic-related dip in GW's enrollment numbers.

The University's acceptance rate rose from 43 percent to 49 percent between the 2020-21 and 2021-22 academic years, which officials

said was the result of a decision to no longer shy away from admitting "higher-caliber applicants" out of the fear they might not enroll upon acceptance.

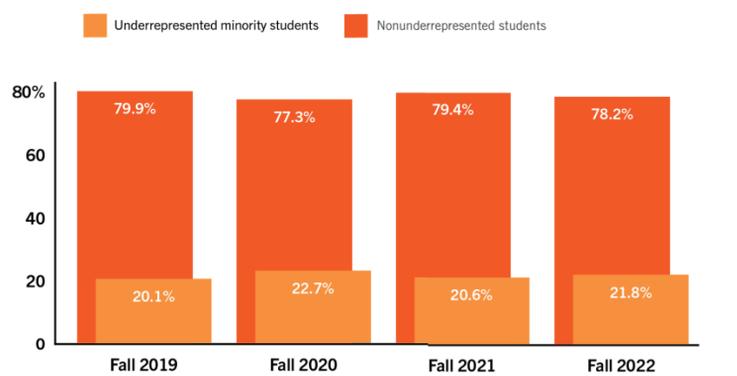
"The new undergraduate class has 2,985 students and slightly exceeded targets that were set this year," he said. "This increase also helps us position the potential undergraduate class closer to new student intake levels."

Goff said total University enrollment currently sits at 25,939 students – a two percent decrease from fall 2021 and about an eight percent decrease from fall 2018. He said the decrease is primarily

the result of the pandemic's negative financial impact on working adults, who are often the students enrolled in part-time degree programs.

Goff said officials plan to recruit more diverse and academically gifted students and improve the University's affordability through ongoing scholarship initiatives for the 2023-24 academic year. He added that officials plan to revive enrollment levels among student populations that decreased during the pandemic, like working adults who enroll in part-time programs, and ensure their recruitment efforts fall in line with GW's capacity.

Fall enrollment of freshman underrepresented minority students by year



Source: GW Institutional Research and Planning

NICHOLAS ANASTACIO | GRAPHICS EDITOR

## GWPD ramps up community outreach efforts with series of fall campus events

**HENRY HUVOS**  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

**MOKSHA AKIL**  
REPORTER

The GW Police Department has introduced a pair of trademark events this fall to bolster student outreach efforts as part of GWPD Chief James Tate's push to establish a culture of community policing in Foggy Bottom.

GWPD kicked off the school year in September with Raise High with GWPD, an event in University Yard where officers handed students food like free Chick-fil-A and pamphlets about the department, before unveiling Coffee with the Chief, where students can discuss campus issues monthly one-on-one with Tate via Webex. More than 10 students said the department's elevated community engagement efforts have signaled increased transparency from the department, drawing stark differences from a period of limited trust between GWPD and students before Tate arrived at the department in 2020.

"The way to determine if outreach efforts are ef-

fective is by listening to students," Tate said in an email. "We have to connect with students and listen to their feedback. So far, the feedback we have received has been positive. Students have shared that what we are doing is 'refreshing' and 'new.'"

Tate said community outreach has been a "priority" for the department to reform GWPD image on campus since he assumed leadership at the start of 2020 of a department whose leadership had previously hung in question amid fractured student relations. Four months after arriving at GW, Tate called the department's officer training "woefully inadequate" with minimal deescalation preparation for officers.

BSU published a letter in June 2020 with eight other student organizations to pressure GWPD to restore trust with the GW community through no-tolerance policies for racial bias cases and a lower presence on campus in light of heightened criticism against policing following the Black Lives Matter protests.

Tate said officers have listened to students through discussion opportunities

and events as part of their outreach. He said more students have engaged with GWPD events and approached the department to file incident reports than during previous years – an "encouraging" sign of comfort and familiarity with the department.

Gianna Cook – a senior majoring in English and the president of BSU, who was also a member of the administration that sent the letter condemning GWPD in 2020 – said GWPD has significantly "evolved" in the past two years. She said prior to Tate's arrival on campus, GWPD wasn't helpful to community members because of their lack of familiarity with students, but now she said officers are going out of their way to greet students, attend organization events and offer opportunities for students to talk with them about policy.

"I think it helps with the representation aspect of knowing that our voices matter," Cook said. "I would hope that in the next couple of months and just even years after that, that partnership is still the mindset instead of the us-vs.-them mindset it might have been in the past."

## Faculty senators vote in support of residence hall in empty campus lot

**GRACE CHINOWSKY**  
CONTRIBUTING NEWS EDITOR

**SOPHIA GOEDERT**  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Faculty senators passed a resolution in support of building a new 320-bed residence hall at the abandoned lot on the corner of 20th and H streets during a Faculty Senate meeting Friday.

The resolution endorses previous plans to construct a residence hall that officials paused during the COVID-19 pandemic, urges the administration to resume planning with "deliberate speed" and recommends the project be placed near or at the top of the University's spending budget. With 22 yes votes, four no votes and one abstention, the resolution states the new residence hall is critical to attracting new students after the recent renovations of Thurston Hall, which removed 280 beds from the building and "substantially reduced" undergraduate housing.

Officials announced plans to build a new residence hall in December 2018 with hopes of finishing construction this fall,



KRISHNA RAJPARA | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

A COVID-19 testing trailer occupied the lot across from University Yard during the previous academic year before officials reassigned three locations on the Foggy Bottom Campus as new testing sites.

but COVID-19 suspended their plans. The 2018 blueprint for the 10-story building feature loft-style common rooms, community kitchens and retail space.

A COVID-19 testing trailer occupied the lot across from University Yard during the previous academic year before officials reassigned three locations on the Foggy Bottom Campus as new testing sites.

Eric Grynawski, the chair of the Faculty Senate's Educational Policy and Technology Committee and co-chair of the senate's Physical Facilities Commit-

tee, presented the resolution to the faculty senators and said the new residence hall is necessary to provide flexibility for GW's undergraduate enrollment targets. He also said the new residence hall can provide extra beds for students who may be moved around during any major renovations of other residence halls.

Grynawski, an associate professor of political science, said there's a "necessity for anchoring" the H Street lot to campus, providing dining options and improving the student experience for graduate students.

## Officials may require Title IX training for all employees

**DANIEL PATRICK GALGANO**  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

**LINDSEY LEARY**  
REPORTER

Officials said GW is preparing to offer mandatory Title IX training to faculty and staff pending the approval of proposed federal regulations from the Department of Education.

President Joe Biden's administration's proposed changes would mandate all faculty and staff attend Title IX training instead of just Title IX Office employees, broaden the legal definition of sexual harassment and discrimination at colleges and universities to include protections for LGBTQ+ students and bar discrimination against pregnant students and employees. Charles Bendit, the chair of the Board of Trustees Audit and Compliance Committee, called a 20-percent faculty participation in voluntary Title IX training at GW "unacceptable" during the Board's meeting in May.

While ED has not published a timeline for the implementation of the final Title IX changes, updates to federal Title IX regulations under the administration of former President Donald Trump took the department about a year and a half to implement after introducing them because of public comment and ED revision.

Caroline Laguerre-Brown, the vice provost for diversity, equity and engagement at GW, said the federal government only requires that Title IX Office personnel receive training on how to deal with accusations of discrimination and sexual harassment, but under the new rules, all University employees will be required to complete training on sex-based discrimination under Title IX regulations.

"In the coming weeks, the provost's office will work with our deans to reinforce and ensure full participation in preventing harassment and discrimination, which includes all the necessary

timeline content for faculty and staff," she said.

Five of GW's 12 peer schools – the University of Miami and Boston, New York, Tufts and Syracuse universities – already have mandatory training for their faculty and staff. Officials required incoming GW students to complete both virtual and in-person Title IX training courses and an online sexual assault prevention module this fall.

Laguerre-Brown said the Title IX Office will be able to respond more broadly to different types of gender discrimination under the Biden administration's proposed Title IX changes. Under the potential updates, the definition of sexual discrimination would now include acts of sex discrimination on the basis of sex stereotypes, sex characteristics, pregnancy or related conditions, sexual orientation and gender identity, according to ED's website.

"All of these additional protections are currently covered under the University's broad anti-discrimination policy, but not currently under the Title IX policy," Laguerre-Brown said at the Faculty Senate meeting Friday.

Biden's Title IX policy would reverse the Trump administration's efforts to reduce Title IX protections, which narrowed the definition of sexual harassment to be any form of unwelcome conduct that is "serious, pervasive and objectively offensive." Trump's Title IX policy also required post-secondary institutions to hold live hearings for sexual misconduct cases, where witnesses were allowed to be cross-examined.

She said officials formed a Title IX regulations task force in July to review the changes to federal Title IX policy the White House proposed in June and receive feedback from the community on how best to implement it. She said the task force will hold an online forum with community members in the coming weeks to receive feedback about the rule changes.

See **TRAINING** Page 5

# News

## THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

### "LEADERSHIP CHALLENGES IN MY CAREER JOURNEY" WITH KAREN DONFRIED

Monday, Nov. 14 | Noon EDT | Elliott School of International Affairs  
Attend an event featuring the assistant secretary of state for the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs.

### PUSHING THE FRONTIERS OF SCIENCE WITH BLACK HOLES

Wednesday, Nov. 16 | 1 p.m. EDT | Elliott School of International Affairs  
Join Feryal Özel, a professor of physics at Georgia Tech, as she discusses recent photos of black holes.

**THIS WEEK IN HISTORY** GW rejected the U.S. government's request to use the Smith Center as the international press headquarters during meetings between Mikhail Gorbachev and Ronald Reagan. Nov. 16, 1987

## EIC DESK:

JARROD WARDWELL  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

At The Hatchet, our mission is to serve every member of the GW community not only with fairness, but also with sensitivity and awareness through our coverage. Whenever we fail in that mission, it is our job to address our shortcomings, own up to any harm or negative impact on the community, hold ourselves accountable and commit to betterment. Last week, The Hatchet asked a question at a public debate on campus that was inappropriate and harmful. We sincerely apologize for the question and the harm it created. We want to share our plan to educate ourselves and ensure that our coverage both reflects this mission and does not harm community members moving forward.

The Hatchet moderated a debate last week between GW College Democrats and GW College Republicans for both organizations to share and counter their views on various national issues at stake in the midterm elections. Before the event, two of The Hatchet's news podcast hosts who conducted the debate agreed on four categories of questions – the economy, immigration, crime and education – with the debaters.

The night before the debate, I met with the hosts who would be moderating to review and edit their questions for about three

hours. While discussing education, I suggested a question about how Republican leaders have supported restrictions against transgender athletes in women's sports. We planned for the question to hold one side accountable for these restrictions that many have denounced as discriminatory on the basis of gender identity. But the question we wrote, directed at Republicans, was poorly worded: "Why do conservatives equate the inclusion of transgender female athletes as an attack on women's athletics?" Though not our intent, the question was phrased in a way that invited the opportunity for transphobic rhetoric to be the topic of conversation in a debate, when we know for a fact that trans women are women, and that fact is not up for debate. I shouldn't have let the question make it into the debate, and I sincerely apologize for that mistake.

Our intention was not – and never is – to create any harm through our work, but after the moderators updated the context of the script for the question the next day as planned, that angle shifted without my knowledge to hone in on the relation between these restrictions and the physiology of an individual, former University of Pennsylvania swimmer Lia Thomas. The inappropriate use of Thomas' identity to frame the question created an opportunity to also harm members of our community who identify as transgender, nonbinary and queer.

Even worse, our moderator introduced the question by saying, "For our last question on education, we're going to step on another political landmine." We were taken aback and disappointed by this insensitive comment. It was uncalled for, placed a satirical filter over such a serious, sensitive topic and heightened the harm of an already-inappropriate question.

There was no acknowledgment of these mistakes from our moderators in the moment as there should have been, and no realization of their impact until online criticism caught our attention Wednesday. I was made aware that some students approached our moderators with concerns about a mention of Lia Thomas after the debate, but because the question we planned had no focus on individual athletes, I didn't assume she had become the sole basis of the question until seeing the social media criticism and going through the event's recording. Only then, did we on The Hatchet's management team learn about what happened and start discussing the situation. Our response to this question at the debate should have been immediate, not reactionary, and that says a lot about where we need to improve and learn.

I would like to once again sincerely apologize for the series of mistakes that led up to this question at the debate and the harm it created for those in our GW com-

munity. We understand the impact of our publication as a community newspaper on a college campus, and the last thing we ever want to do is to contribute to the hate and discrimination that marginalized groups experience every day. We regret our mistake and will actively work to learn from it to better ourselves, the content we publish and our role in the GW community as a whole.

It is important that I am clear here as well. Identity should not be a topic we shy away from. As a student newspaper, it is our responsibility to represent, serve and tell the stories of all members of the GW community while holding parties in power accountable. So while our question under the topic of transgender identity was without a doubt framed inappropriately and worded poorly, we will stay committed to discussing gender identity and discrimination against transgender, gender nonconforming and queer individuals through respectful and accurate reporting and community relations.

I met with Dr. Jordan West, the associate vice provost for diversity, equity and community engagement, to discuss the chain of events that played out at the debate and understand how The Hatchet needs to own and make amends for the harm done. I arrived at a two-step process – apologize and educate. To act on the second of these two steps, The Hatchet will cover Transgender

Awareness Week in the coming days with a focus on student organization programming with the permission and support of student leaders planning the events. We will also educate our team on Transgender Day of Remembrance, taking place Nov. 20. Additionally, we are currently in the middle of a three-part series of mandatory diversity, equity and inclusion workshops for our staff focusing on workplace environment, reporting on the GW and D.C. community and inclusive recruitment efforts. We plan to hold another meeting between Dr. West and the members of our podcast team to reflect on what went wrong at the debate. The work we have to do is urgent and ongoing.

We are committed to representing the diversity of our University community with nothing short of respect and inclusivity through our coverage and reporting, and learning from our mistakes is the bare minimum as a student newspaper. As part of my platform this volume, our push to improve how diversity is reflected among our staff and through our engagement with the community is central to our work. We hope to apply this priority to mending the harm we've incurred from last week's debate among all other aspects of our mission as a newspaper. Please reach out to me at [jwardwell@gwhatchet.com](mailto:jwardwell@gwhatchet.com) with any questions, concerns or general thoughts about these efforts. We're always willing to listen.

## Lack of Lerner upgrades disappoints students after officials ditch lofty goals

CADE MCALLISTER  
REPORTER

EDEN PARKER  
REPORTER

The Lerner Health and Wellness Center's renovations stopped short of the equipment upgrades and physical reconfigurations that officials first advertised before shutting down the facility for five months in May.

Officials reopened Lerner last week with an updated heating, ventilation and air conditioning system, but officials announced in May that the renovations may also include "equipment upgrades" and a redesigned layout with more versatile spaces. Many students said they struggled to identify any physical changes in the space post-renovations after finding rundown equipment and "cramped" spaces to be lingering issues upon the facility's reopening.

"The closure is necessary to safely perform extensive HVAC work throughout the entire building," Andre Julien, the director of the Lerner Health and Wellness Center said in an email in May. "It is also an opportunity to use the downtime for equipment upgrades and to reconfigure the building to offer more flexible and collaborative spaces."

University spokesperson Josh Grossman did not return a request for comment on the specific nature of all the renovations completed in Lerner and whether equipment upgrades were completed during the closure.

Students said while Lerner was closed, they improvised in-dorm exercises or paid for memberships at off-campus gyms, opting out of the free gym access on the third-floor room of the University Student Center and the West Hall gym on the Mount Vernon campus.

Lerner offers a three-lane lap pool on its lower level and free weights, weight machines and cardio machines on the ground floor. The building also has six squash suites, four courts for basketball, volleyball and badminton and a gymnasium with a suspended track on the third and fourth floors.

More than 25 students said they have used Le-

ner since its reopening and recommended officials replace older, run-down weight and cardio equipment that is missing safety features with newer models. Students also said they wanted to see officials reconfigure the space, noting the "cramped" layout of the center that leaves little wiggle room during high-traffic periods, especially when popular equipment like weight benches frequently have lines of students waiting to use them during busy hours.

Seven students said they saw minimal change in Lerner post-renovations and noted the lack of new equipment given officials' previous messaging and the length of the closure.

Senior Ennosien Yen, who studies interior architecture, said she thought officials would upgrade equipment during the closure and recommended they install more machines on the building's third and fourth floors to spread out students and address the lack of space.

Other than the track and multi-purpose courts, Lerner's third and fourth floors lack free weights and only feature various cardio equipment on the top floor.

"This is like a four- or five-floor building, and I don't think it's being used to the potential that it could be being used at," Yen said. "So, more machines, more weightlifting, more utilizing activities on each floor."

Freshman Erica Kong said there are a few popular exercise machines, like weighted squat machines, which frequently have lineups of students waiting to use them. She said she has had to wait at least twice for multiple students to use the machines before she can go.

"The leg machines like the hip abductors and the weighted squats one, those are really popular, but it's kind of one at a time because there's only one of each," Kong said.

Freshman Rohan Singh said some exercise machines seem rundown and require maintenance or replacement because they lack safety measures like grips, making them painful or unsafe to use.

"Machines don't have grips on them anymore," Singh said. "It's just like

ripping your hands on bare metal, and they're just quite old machines, like 15 years old."

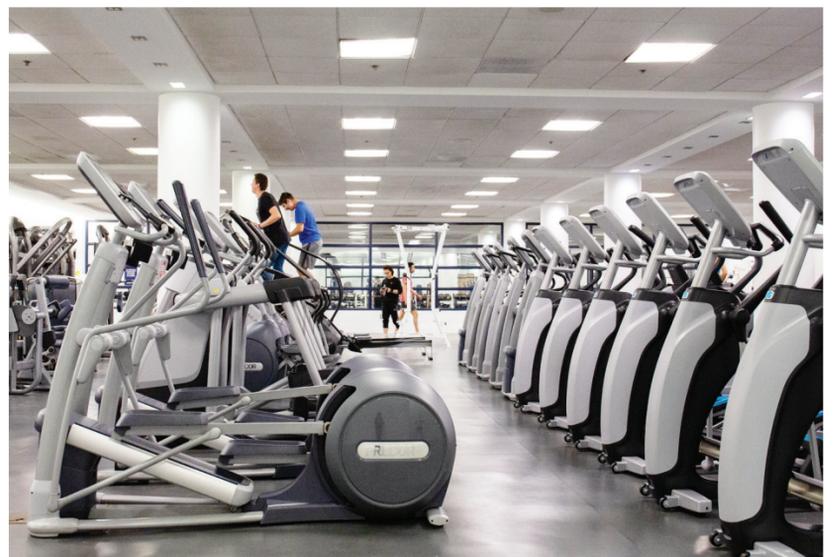
Sophomore Asli Berketoglu said the weight room is "small" and has dated equipment that appears to not have been updated since before the closure. She said officials should update or better maintain the exercise machines, pointing to the cardio equipment that creaks when in motion.

Exercise machines generally have a lifespan of about 10 years including ongoing maintenance checks, according to a 2016 report by Allianz Risk Consulting.

"I feel like the equipment is so old," Berketoglu said. "They have to change the equipment because the equipment makes so much noise when you use it."

Students said there is a lack of space in Lerner's cardio and weights section even after officials had stated that they planned to reconfigure the space to be more "flexible."

Freshman Eugenia Wincey said the lack of space in those sections



RACHEL SCHWARTZ | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

Students said they wanted to see officials reconfigure Lerner, noting the "cramped" layout of the center that leaves little wiggle room during high-traffic periods.

makes the space feel "cramped." She said the space isn't large enough to accommodate all the students using the facility during its most crowded periods in the afternoon.

"I think that the space where there's the walkers and the weights is a bit small for the magnitude of

the student population," Wincey said.

Junior Nicky Danilich said the only improvement he noticed upon reopening was freshly painted white walls in the lobby and the fitness center. He said the gym's closure wasn't "worth" it for him because he had to find an alterna-

tive gym off-campus and didn't notice any major physical renovations upon the center's reopening.

"I don't know if that was something they had to do, but it was kind of annoying having to go to Gold's Gym in Rosslyn instead while it was closed," Danilich said.

## SNAPSHOT

ALLISON ROBERT | PHOTOGRAPHER



President Joe Biden's expressions shift from jovial to contemplative at a press conference reflecting on the midterm election results in the East Room of the White House Wednesday. Democrats exceeded expectations, securing control of the U.S. Senate Saturday.

# National Park Service closes part of Rock Creek Park to vehicles after facing pressure from locals, faculty

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CONTRIBUTING NEWS EDITOR

LILAH DONNELLY  
REPORTER

National Park Service officials permanently closed more than five miles of roadway in Rock Creek Park earlier this month after local residents and faculty identified traffic as a safety threat to wildlife and pedestrians.

The northern 5.05 miles of Beach Drive, which lies between the Hawthorne and Shepherd Park neighborhoods, will be closed year-round to motorized vehicular traffic in an effort to clear space for recreational activities like walking and biking, according to an NPS release. A group of 18 faculty signed the letter in August in support of the closure, echoing the calls of 2,400 public comments on the NPS website that pushed the agency to isolate exercise space for individuals from lower socioeconomic classes and prevent traffic deaths caused by congestion and high speed vehicles on NPS land.

NPS has kept the area closed during weekdays for recreational purposes since April 2020, a pandemic lockdown allowing park visitors to use the space to bike and walk while remaining socially distanced. The agency also shut down upper Beach Drive to vehicles during the weekends in the 1960s.

The letter – signed by faculty in the Climate and Health Institute, Sumner M. Redstone Global Center for Prevention & Wellness, Milken Institute School of Public Health, Columbian College of Arts and Sciences and the School of Medicine and Health Sciences – states Rock Creek Park contains the “most abundant” green space in D.C., and park visitors should have “unrestricted” access to the upper Beach Drive area in the northern portion of the park. Access to free space to exercise can boost the health of residents of lower socioeconomic classes and can reduce the risk of chronic illnesses like type 2 diabetes, according to the letter.

“This is an inconsequential distance for cars but is a significant distance when traveling on foot,” the letter states.

In July, NPS proposed to close upper Beach Drive from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day each year in the Upper Beach Drive



DANIELLE TOWERS | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

The closure of upper Beach Drive will increase the amount of accessible space to visitors with disabilities, who cannot access other parts of the park without accessible pathways, according to the NPS release.

Management Plan, which guides the use of upper Beach Drive and nearby roadways, opening up a virtual forum for public comments about the proposal and holding a public Zoom meeting to gather community feedback.

NPS did not return a request for comment.

The closure of upper Beach Drive will increase the amount of accessible space to visitors with disabilities, who cannot access other parts of the park without accessible pathways, according to the NPS release. The release states that upper Beach Drive has a “small” amount of traffic, but NPS will work with the District Department of Transportation to install a traffic signal to improve pedestrian safety in the areas surrounding Rock Creek Park.

NPS will create a “visitor use plan” to prevent park visitors from “cutting” through the forest like they did during the previous weekend closure of upper Beach Drive in 2020, harming plants and animal habitats, according to the release.

“Opening this section of Beach Drive to pedestrians and cyclists has provided our community with increased opportunities for healthy recreation, greater access to nature and outdoor enjoyment,” Julia Washburn, the Rock Creek Park superintendent, said in the release. “We hope to continue seeing you all on Beach Drive and ask for your help as we work to protect sensitive habitat sur-

rounding the road.”

Liz Borkowski, a senior research scientist for the department of health policy and management in the Milken Institute School of Public Health and a signatory of the faculty letter, said the space for physical activity and fresh air in upper Beach Drive can provide public health benefits for the D.C. community. Borkowski said fewer vehicles in the area will allow more park visitors to walk and bike in Rock Creek Park.

Borkowski said the biodiverse drive is home to a variety of plants and animals, and more trees and greenery can help counter the urban heat island effect, which occurs in large cities when natural land is replaced with asphalt, buildings and concrete that absorb and retain heat. Rock Creek Park has cooler temperatures than other parts of the District, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

“The letter points out spaces with a lot of trees are cooler in the summer,” Borkowski said. “So that is particularly important as we see our temperatures going up.”

Borkowski said instead of adding a bike lane to incorporate different ways for park visitors to use the road, closing upper Beach Drive to vehicles will increase safety more effectively, citing some bike lanes in D.C. that lack barriers which protect them from traffic. She said she rides an electric scooter to campus and does

not feel safe in bike lanes that do not have physical barriers.

Last year, cars hit and killed two pedestrians on NPS land, according to the faculty letter. Traffic-related deaths in D.C. doubled from 2012 to 2021 with 40 recorded traffic fatalities in 2021, according to data from the Metropolitan Police Department.

Mayor Muriel Bowser rolled out Vision Zero, a plan to eliminate traffic-related deaths and serious injuries by 2024, which District officials said has “fallen short” of its goal.

“There is definitely an issue that D.C. needs to keep putting resources into and making changes to get down to their vision of having zero pedestrian deaths,” Borkowski said.

Peter LaPuma, a professor of environmental and occupational health and a signatory of the faculty letter, said the benefits of closing upper Beach Drive, like decreasing pollutants from cars, outweigh the disadvantages, like redirecting commuters who drive through upper Beach Drive.

“I think most people value green space and it will push them to try to try to save it as we can,” LaPuma said.

LaPuma said Rock Creek Park boosts mental health for those who use it because it is a “quieter” space in the city.

“If you have cars going through there that kind of ruins the natural environment,” LaPuma said.

## CRIME LOG

### LEWD, INDECENT OR OBSCENE ACTS

2200 Block of G Street  
11/5/2022 – 11:55 p.m.  
Closed Case  
GW Police Department officers responded to a report of an unknown male subject engaged in lewd acts. Upon arrival, officers made contact with the subject and issued a bar notice.  
**Subject barred.**

### DISORDERLY CONDUCT

800 Block of 21st Street  
11/5/2022 – 11:01 p.m.  
Closed Case  
GWPD officers responded to a report of an unknown male subject acting disorderly toward a female student. The subject then voluntarily sought medical attention, and EMeRG responders transported him to the GW Hospital Emergency Room. GWPD officers later issued a bar notice to the subject.  
**Subject barred.**

### LIQUOR LAW VIOLATION

Lafayette Hall  
11/6/2022 – 1:06 a.m.  
Closed Case  
GWPD officers and an on-call Campus, Living and Residential Education official responded to a report of an intoxicated male student. EMeRG responders conducted a medical evaluation and cleared the student, who declined further medical treatment. Alcoholic beverages observed in plain view were disposed of on scene.  
**Referred to the Division for Student Affairs.**

### LEWD, INDECENT OR OBSCENE ACTS

Mitchell Hall (7-Eleven Store)  
11/8/2022 – 7:29 a.m.  
Closed Case  
GWPD officers responded to a report of a male unknown subject who was indecently exposed. Upon arrival, officers made contact with the subject and issued him a bar notice.  
**Subject barred.**

### THEFT II/OTHER

University Yard (Breezeway)  
11/8/2022 – 11 a.m.-5:50 p.m.  
Open Case  
A male student reported their electric scooter stolen.  
**Cases open.**

### LIQUOR LAW VIOLATION

Mount Vernon Campus  
11/10/2022 – 11:15 p.m.  
Closed Case  
GWPD responded to a report of two intoxicated female students outside Ames Hall. D.C. Fire and Emergency Medical Services responded and transported one student to the GW Hospital ER and the other student to Georgetown University Hospital after performing medical evaluations.  
**Cases open.**

— Complied by Peyton Gallant

# Law professor and intellectual property law scholar dies at 45

CAITLIN KITSON  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Dmitry Karshedt, a law professor and a celebrated scholar in the intellectual property law community, died late last month. He was 45.

The cause of death is currently unknown, according to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.

Karshedt joined the GW Law faculty in 2015, where he taught courses in intellectual property law, like Patent Law, while his articles were published in legal journals, like Vanderbilt Law Review and Harvard Journal of Law and Technology. His colleagues remember him as an intelligent, funny and kind member of the GW community who went out of his way to support his students and fellow faculty members.

Karshedt graduated from Stanford Law School in 2011, where he served as the organizer for the Stanford Law Review’s symposium on the future of patent law. After earning his law degree, Karshedt became an attorney for the Patent Counseling and Innovation Group at the Palo Alto law firm Wilson Sonsini Goodrich and Rosati from 2011 to 2012 and worked as a clerk for Judge Kimberly Moore, the chief judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit from 2012 to 2014.

Prior to becoming a law professor at GW, Karshedt was also a fellow at Stanford Law School’s Center for Law and the Biosciences from August 2014 to July

2015. He went on to earn awards for his work in intellectual property law, like a fellowship from the Antonin Scalia Law School’s Center for the Protection of Intellectual Property at George Mason University. He also served as a visiting scholar at the University of Copenhagen Faculty of Law’s Centre for Advanced Studies in Biomedical Innovation Law in fall 2021.

Karshedt received a bachelor’s degree in chemistry and graduated summa cum laude from Harvard College in 1999 before earning a doctorate in chemistry from the University of California, Berkeley in 2005 ahead of his entry into the law field.

He furthered his career in chemistry through his roles as a staff chemist at Kovio, Inc. – a semiconductor materials startup – and a scientific consultant at Siluria, Inc. – a chemical catalysis startup from 2006 to 2008. Karshedt was the co-inventor of 12 U.S. patents, including a patent for natural gas processing and systems, and the co-author of five scientific journal articles.

After joining GW Law’s faculty in 2015, Karshedt went on to work on five of the law school’s committees, including the Academic Integrity Committee, and serve as a peer reviewer for The George Washington University Law Review.

Law school faculty said they will remember Karshedt for his thoughtful approach to his teaching and scholarship and the humor and support he brought to

the school’s community.

Robert Brauneis, the co-director of the law school’s Intellectual Property Law program, said Karshedt will be remembered for his humble and kind nature and his commitment to the program and the law school.

“We have lost a brilliant scholar, a cherished teacher, a devoted colleague and a kindhearted, caring man, not at the end of a long life but in the midst of a successful career with the promise of much more to come, a promise that is now tragically cut short,” he said in an email to intellectual property law professors at GW.

Brauneis said he sat in on Karshedt’s courses and was “amazed” by how he encouraged student interaction to make his courses engaging. He said Karshedt co-authored the program’s strategic planning document and often reviewed his colleagues’ article drafts to contribute to the Intellectual Property Law program.

“He was committed to our IP program and to the law school, and he backed up that commitment with time and attention – he leaned in, never away,” he said. “Although John Whealan and I had the responsibility of drafting a strategic planning document for the IP program back in the spring of 2021, Dmitry became an enthusiastic joint author, contributing as much as we did.”

Brauneis said Karshedt enjoyed academic and social interactions with his colleagues and planned to

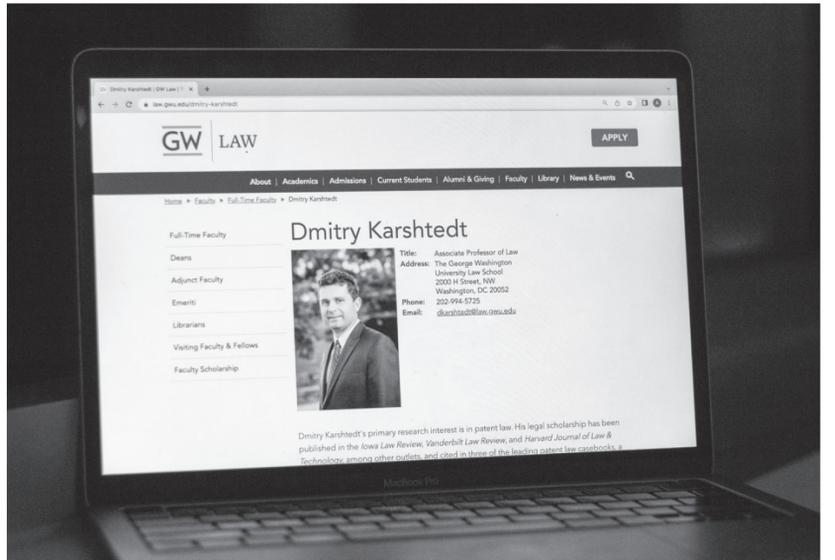


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY AUDEN YURMAN | SENIOR PHOTO EDITOR

Karshedt’s colleagues remember him as an intelligent, funny and kind member of the GW community who went out of his way to support his students and fellow faculty members.

promote socializing among the law school’s faculty through activities, like Friday afternoon drinks and ping-pong sessions at the law school.

“He felt very warmly welcomed there, and he revealed in the mingling of academic and social interaction,” he said.

Barbara Lauriat, a visiting associate professor of law, said Karshedt was a “generous and energetic colleague” whose humor, intelligence and sincerity defined his personality. She said Karshedt often took time out of his schedule to advise other faculty members in the law school on their career and academic pursuits.

“Even with all of his

work and travel, he was always thinking of ways to help and support me in my career and scholarship, and I know that it wasn’t just me – he did the same for so many others,” she said in an email. “His death is a tragic loss for his family and his friends, for GW and for the intellectual property law community around the world.”

F. Scott Kieff, the Fred C. Stevenson Research Professor of Law, said Karshedt was an “absolute treat” to have among the law school’s faculty.

“He was a great scholar, teacher and all around member of our community,” he said in an email. “I hope that his family is comforted to know how many

of us there are who learned so much from their son’s work and who so enjoyed their son’s camaraderie.”

Karshedt is survived by his parents, Tatiana and Ilya Karshedt. His family and members of the law school community gathered for his memorial service earlier this month at St. Mary’s Orthodox Church in Falls Church, Virginia.

Karshedt’s family requested that instead of sending flowers, people make donations to his scholarship fund.

*Editor’s Note: If any family members, friends or colleagues of Professor Dmitry Karshedt would like to provide further comment for the story, email The Hatchet at sne@gwhatchet.com.*



RACHEL SCHWARTZ | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

Julia Strasser, the lead author of the study said the outcome of the Dobbs decision threatens access to both abortion care and forces a "time-sensitive" procedure.

## COVID limited number of health care providers in abortion services: study

LYDIE LAKE  
REPORTER

RORY QUEALY  
REPORTER

A professor at the Milken Institute School of Public Health released a study earlier this month that found the COVID-19 pandemic limited available labor within the abortion and contraceptive services workforce.

Julia Strasser, the lead author of the study, said the research found the number of physicians working on abortion and contraceptive services declined from 2019 to 2021 while the number of clinicians, like nurse practitioners and physician assistants, took an "encouraging" rise. Strasser said her team found the number of procedural abortions decreased but medication abortions increased during the pandemic because of patients' fear of catching COVID in medical offices.

Strasser, an assistant research professor of health policy and management and the director of the Jacobs Institute of Women's Health in Milken, said the study examined how health workers continued caring for patients while facing public health challenges associated with COVID-19 and legal restrictions with the Supreme Court's overturn of Roe v. Wade. The researchers started collecting data on abortion and contraceptive services from January of 2019 to December of 2021 and analyzed the collected data from this June to July, according to the study.

The study found little overlap between clinicians who provide care for pregnancy loss management, like miscarriages, and clini-

cians who provide abortion services. A larger overlap would indicate a larger number of abortion providers and suggest abortion care providers would be easier to find, according to the study.

The study found clinicians who provide care for pregnancy loss management rarely performed abortion services, which effectively limited the availability of abortion care from 2019 to 2021.

"The more that we can understand the workforce providing contraception care and abortion care as it's changing in response to these major events, the better of an understanding that we can get about how people who need contraception and need abortion services can have access to the providers that can provide them," Strasser said.

Strasser said contraceptive services were in high demand from March to May of 2020 while their availability declined when providers' offices first shut down due to the onset of the pandemic, but access returned to pre-COVID levels in 2021. She said the increase in services in 2021 reflected a collective demand for services after a period of time where access was low.

Strasser said providers in states with abortion restrictions are "afraid" to provide abortion and medication for individuals dealing with a miscarriage because the term "abortion" encompasses medical procedures managing miscarriages or unintentional pregnancy loss in those states.

"The fewer people who can provide abortion care as a result of the Dobbs decision, the harder it is to access care that is needed in

a timely manner," Strasser said.

Experts in the field of public health and obstetrics and gynecology said the findings of the study suggest the reduction of health care workers during the pandemic and restrictions that the Dobbs decision triggered will force patients to travel to states with looser abortion laws for adequate care.

Leslie Kantor, a professor and chair of the department of urban global public health at the Rutgers School of Public Health, said the continued operation of abortion clinics during the start of the pandemic stirred debate about whether abortion care is essential health care.

Kantor, the former vice president of education at the Planned Parenthood Federation of America, said obstetrics and gynecology practitioners in reproductive care clinics are facing disruptions, including closures, in states where abortion laws are restrictive because of the Dobbs decision.

The reversal of Roe v. Wade triggered strict abortion laws to go into effect in 14 states, and courts have blocked trigger laws in seven states. At least 21 million people of childbearing age have lost access to safe abortions because of the implementation of these laws, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"We are living in two Americas," Kantor said. "Access to comprehensive reproductive health care, including abortion, is expanding and getting more protected in a set of states, but then for about half the country, we've gone the other direction."

## Organization to empower women, nonbinary students in cybersecurity

BARRY YAO  
REPORTER

HANNAH MARR  
REPORTER

A student organization has been working to empower women and nonbinary students in the field of cybersecurity by facilitating professional opportunities this fall.

Student leaders of Women in Cybersecurity, or WiCyS, the GW chapter of a global organization, said they aim to help undergraduate and graduate students find cybersecurity internships and prepare for careers in cybersecurity. WiCyS leaders said 71 students are registered as members and plan to continue hosting weekly meetings this year to expand membership, in addition to having a table in the University Student Center for September's Women's Org Fair and spreading the word about the club verbally among peers.

Darika Shaibekova, a graduate student studying computer science and the co-president of WiCyS, said she decided to help establish the organization, which was approved in March, after noticing a lack of resources for women and nonbinary people to find internships in related fields. She said their main goal is to help students, particularly undergraduates, to enter the cybersecurity field by assisting them in kick-starting their careers.

"We just didn't know who to reach out to, and that's why we started this organization on campus, to help students get internship positions, teaching them about cybersecurity 101," she said.

According to GW enrollment data, 117 women were enrolled in computer science Master's and Bachelor's programs in 2021. Women make up 24 percent of the cybersecurity workforce.

Shaibekova said WiCyS is planning on hosting events with companies who sponsor the organization for members for networking.

"We are recruiting and providing resources like getting internship positions and networking," she said. "We have also been helping them apply for scholarships to attend conferences as well, so they can expand their network."

Lena Rose, a graduate student studying security policies and the other co-president of the organization, said WiCyS strives to "empower" women and nonbinary people in the field of cybersecurity. Rose said the organization discusses ways to overcome the potential "imposter syndrome" and self-doubt that women and nonbinary people experience as a result of the lack of representation they face in the field and encourage members to continue pursuing opportunities.

"Being a part of this community is really a confidence boost for a lot of people," Rose said. "We are letting people know that we are here to make an impact in the cybersecurity field. This is a recurring theme in this club."

Rose said she has been in contact with American University's WiCyS chapter president and hopes to host a joint event. There are 150 WiCyS student chapters throughout the world and presidents of student chapters are guaranteed scholarships to attend the annual WiCyS conference, where

they can connect with other chapters.

"I think that combining the two clubs would definitely strengthen the presence of women in cybersecurity within the D.C. region," she said.

Carmela Gonzales, a second-year graduate student and the strategy chair of WiCyS, said her responsibilities involve handling partnerships with collaborating organizations and sponsors. She said her goal is to help others grow professionally at events like study groups and weekly general body meetings, where the organization's leaders host discussions about technical topics like cyberattacks and policy-based issues like how China's rise as a technology superpower is shaping the future of the cyber industry.

"I really hope that students can grow into their own personal, career and academic identities," Gonzalez said. "I care about them figuring out the narrative for themselves and providing opportunities if that's the path they want."

Senior Emily Zimmermann, majoring in international affairs with a concentration in Asia and Chinese and a member of WiCyS, said she has attended the weekly meetings and study sessions, and that leaders have been very "welcoming" and "kind."

She said the organization's events have given her an opportunity to meet other women in a male-dominated field.

"Carmela has been helping me out a lot with job applications," she said. "I've been able to meet really cool people at her company that have been really helpful for understanding what I want to do."



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY DANIELLE TOWERS | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

WiCyS leaders said 71 students are registered as members and plan to continue hosting weekly meetings this year to expand membership.

## Student team wins grand prize for a D.C. public health case challenge

MAGGIE O'NEILL  
REPORTER

MAX PORTER  
REPORTER

A team of students from across the University won a contest last month that challenged participants to formulate a strategy to prevent intimate partner violence among D.C. adolescents.

The team – which consisted of six dean-selected graduate students from the Milken Institute School of Public Health, GW Law, the School of Nursing and the School of Medicine and Health Sciences – won \$3,000 in prize money to be divided between the team after beating out six participating universities in the D.C. area and presented their plan to a panel of expert judges. The team's solution to youth intimate partner violence implements community and policy-based changes to support survivors with stable housing with a hypothetical \$1 million budget over a five-year timeline, according to a tweet from Milken's Twitter account.

Laura Santacrose, the team's student leader and a second-year doctoral student studying public health, said the team named their winning strategy "Voices to Interrupt and Prevent Violence." She said the plan outlines a youth advisory board that would help Advisory Neighborhood Commissions in D.C. identify solutions to

local issues and a youth-led educational program named the D.C. Avengers that would teach students about recognizing the signs of intimate partner violence.

"We really wanted to engage youth in creating these resilient communities," Santacrose said. "We thought that the earlier we could intervene, the better. That was one of the reasons that pointed us to the upstream approach of starting with middle school rather than high school or even college."

Intimate partner violence is classified as physical violence, sexual violence, stalking and psychological aggression, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. About 41 percent of women and 26 percent of men have reported experiencing both physical and sexual violence or stalking from their partner in the U.S.

Santacrose said the team's plan focused in Wards 7 and 8 where more than 21 percent and 23 percent of families live below the poverty line, respectively, compared to the D.C.-wide average of 10.5 percent. Both wards also exceed the overall D.C. average in unemployment and the proportion of population older than 25 without a high school diploma.

She said the team also implemented a two-pronged approach to intimate partner violence involving advocacy for more affordable housing and a website that explains

resources like legal support housing, available to people experiencing intimate partner violence. Santacrose said people trying to leave abusive relationships could face housing insecurity and temporary homelessness, which makes it harder to leave those situations.

"Our team tried to propose solutions at multiple levels, while other teams went really deep focused on just the interpersonal level or went really deep trying to create an educational program," Santacrose said. "I think part of why our team was so successful and why we ultimately won was that we were really trying to look at it through a public health lens."

Gene Migliaccio, one of the team's faculty advisors and the associate dean of applied public health at Milken, said the collaboration between several of GW's schools is part of what made the challenge a success.

Migliaccio said the team is currently working on publishing their work, which they plan to release early next year.

"Everyone touches it from their own vantage point, and that's how solutions are developed," Migliaccio said.

Kayla Authalet, a member of the team and a fourth-year graduate student at SMHS, did background research on successful school intervention programs that influenced the GW team's final proposal to help formu-



COURTESY OF GENE MIGLIACCIO

The team's solution to youth intimate partner violence implements community and policy-based changes to support survivors with stable housing.

late the D.C. Avengers plan. She said she studied Expect Respect in Austin, Texas, a program that offers educational theater classes in middle and high schools to promote learning about healthy relationships and preventing bullying.

Prabha Raghavan, a second-year master's of public health student specializing in global health program design, monitoring and evaluation and a member of the team, said Wendy Ellis, a GW professor and the director of the Center for Community Resilience at Milken, influenced their award-

winning solution. Ellis created the "Pair of ACEs" tree model, which the team used to narrow down the aspects of violence to focus on like discrimination, poverty and adverse childhood experiences and intimate partner violence and homelessness.

"It was very nice for us to see that one of the strongest evidences guiding our project came from the work of a GW professor," Raghavan said.

Jennifer Skillicorn – another faculty adviser for the study, the director of the Office of Applied Public Health and the director of the Doc-

tor of Public Health program at Milken – said the issue of intimate partner violence is complex with many different root causes. She said poverty, adverse childhood experiences and trauma can contribute to intimate partner violence and the difficulty the team had addressing them because the roots of the problems are "systemic."

"Those are challenging things," Skillicorn said. "They're so systemic that it can be challenging to address those, especially with a pretty small pot of money that was allocated through this case challenge."

# GW asks appeals court whether COVID droplets can cause building damage

**GRACE CHINOWSKY**  
CONTRIBUTING NEWS EDITOR

The University filed a motion last Friday asking the D.C. Court of Appeals to rule that the presence of COVID-19 droplets can cause “physical loss or damage” after a judge dismissed a lawsuit GW filed last year seeking insurance compensation for pandemic losses.

GW sued Factory Mutual last year to require the insurance company to cover hundreds of millions of dollars in coronavirus-related losses, saying COVID-19 droplets “damaged” buildings, making them unusable and falling under the physical damages insurance policy GW bought from the company. In September, District Court Judge Dabney Friedrich dismissed the lawsuit, saying the COVID droplets did not constitute enough damage to be considered “tangible alterations” to GW property for insurance purposes because virus droplets can

be cleaned off of surfaces, delivering a win to Factory Mutual.

GW’s motion asks the Court of Appeals to hear arguments on whether the COVID droplets could be considered damage under insurance definitions. A win for GW in this motion, which would allow the Court of Appeals to determine whether the droplets could be considered physical damage, could give University officials an opportunity to save the case from being dismissed.

In last year’s lawsuit, officials said financial strains caused by the pandemic cost the University “hundreds of millions” of dollars and officials separately said the pandemic led to a \$180 million budget gap during the 2021 fiscal year.

The motion states there is undetermined D.C. law on the question of whether or not COVID droplets present “physical loss and damages,” referencing similar cases being considered in other state courts like

Maryland and Vermont, some of which have decided the issue in the insured’s favor.

“This Court should likewise certify the question above to the D.C. Court of Appeals rather than attempt to predict District of Columbia law on this important question,” the document states.

Friedrich said in September’s dismissal that while D.C. courts have not considered whether COVID-19 can cause physical loss and damages to property, the “overwhelming majority” of other courts – like those in Maryland, New Jersey and Washington state – that have examined the question have ruled that the virus does not meet the definition.

Officials said Friedrich, in his dismissal, limited the company’s all-risks policy to cover only broken property, rather than any property rendered unsafe or unusable by a “noxious substance” like COVID-19, which they said should be



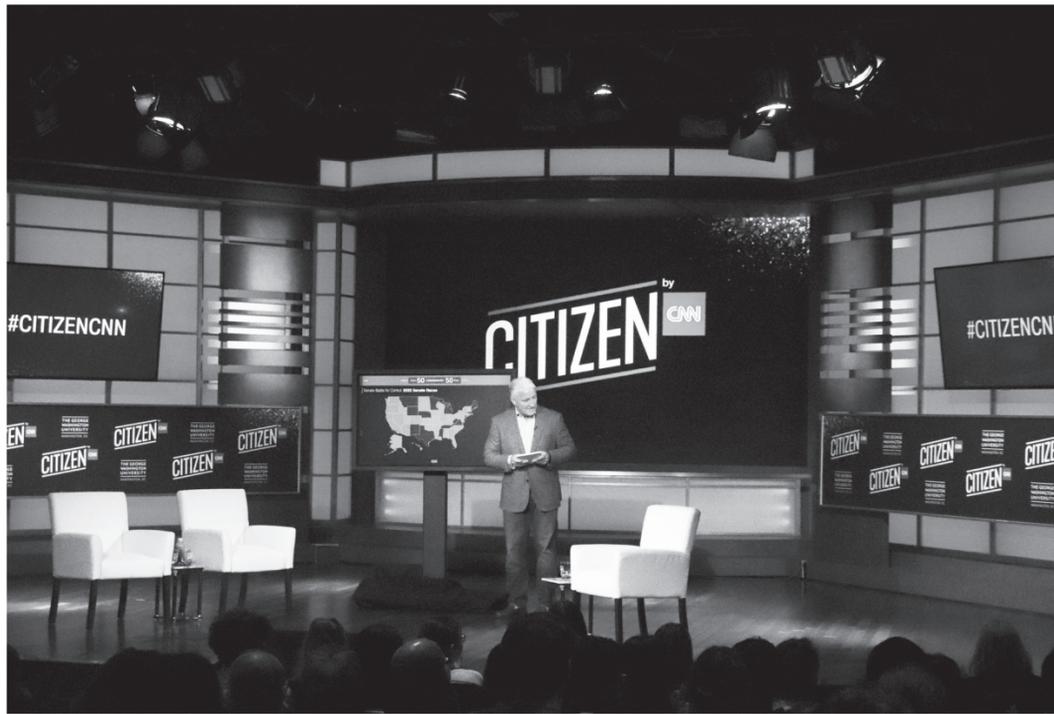
KRISHNA RAJPARA | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

GW sued Factory Mutual last year to require the insurance company to cover hundreds of millions of dollars in COVID-related losses.

covered. Friedrich said the COVID-19 droplets did not present a tangible alteration of property in the dismissal, calling the argument “unpersuasive.”

“GW’s allegations are consistent with decades of case law holding that physical risks such as carbon monoxide, wildfire smoke, asbestos, and foul odors

may cause ‘physical loss or damage’ that triggers insurance coverage because they prevent an insured from using their property as intended,” the motion states.



MAYA NAIR | PHOTOGRAPHER

The conversation started with a look into the upcoming runoff for Georgia’s Senate race. Incumbent Sen. Raphael Warnock, D-Ga., leads former football player Herschel Walker, R.

## CNN journalists talk 2022 midterm election results, Georgia Senate runoff

**DYLAN EBS**  
REPORTER

Three CNN journalists discussed the implications of November’s midterm election results at the School of Media and Public Affairs Thursday.

The panelists broke down several notable races and discussed how President Joe Biden’s administration is reacting to the results. The event, held at the Jack Morton Auditorium, marked the year’s final CITIZEN by CNN panel at GW, a series of discussions about current political events led by CNN journalists.

National political reporter Dan Merica led the conversation, joined by Daniella Diaz, CNN’s Capitol Hill reporter and Jeff Zeleny, CNN’s chief national affairs correspondent.

The panel started the conversation with a look into the upcoming runoff for Georgia’s Senate race. Incumbent Sen. Raphael Warnock, D-Ga., leads former football player Herschel Walker, R, but fell short of the necessary 50 percent needed to avoid a runoff.

“The question is, can Herschel Walker grow as a candidate?” Zeleny said. “Can his campaign organization strengthen? They didn’t have much of a ground operation. They were sort of relying on Brian Kemp, the governor’s op-

eration.”

Democrats flipped Pennsylvania’s open Senate seat after a contentious race between Pennsylvania Lieutenant Governor John Fetterman, D-Pa., and Republican television personality Dr. Mehmet Oz. Merica said Fetterman’s campaign struggled with responding to a stroke that Fetterman suffered over the summer.

“When his team decided that it was time to come into his room and leave their boiler room, which is where they’re watching all the data come in, his campaign manager came up to him and said ‘John, you may not get the blue checkmark from the AP and news outlets tonight, but you’re going to be the next senator from Pennsylvania,’” Merica said. “And at that moment, one outlet called the race. Apparently the room went crazy and Fetterman smiled and broke down and wept.”

Control of the House is still up for grabs, according to CNN, though Diaz said Republicans are likely to flip and control the chamber. She said a GOP House majority will likely be narrow.

“If you asked me a week ago whether I expected there to be a huge margin with Republicans taking the majority of the House, I would’ve said yes, probably like 20 seats” Diaz said. “Now we expect less than ten.”

The panel also discussed former President Donald Trump’s role in the Republican Party. Zeleny said many Republicans are blaming Trump for the party’s underperformance on Tuesday.

“He emerged in a new way at the end of this race to take a premature victory lap, essentially,” Zeleny said. “I was at a rally he had last Thursday night in Sioux City, Iowa, and it was mainly about him and election grievances. He thrust himself in the middle of this conversation. He went to Florida, he went to Pennsylvania, he went to Ohio. Mehmet Oz did not want him to come to Pennsylvania on the eve of the election.”

Zeleny said the Biden administration is prepared for a series of investigations into the president and his family if Republicans take the House. CNN recently reported such probes are a top priority for the House GOP.

“It doesn’t matter the size of the majority, because even if it’s a one-seat majority, there will still be a Chairman of the Oversight Committee,” Zeleny said. “The investigations will sting just as much to the White House if there’s a one-seat majority versus a 30-seat majority, so the reality is the second half of the president’s first term is going to be totally different.”

## Required Title IX training aids survivors: experts

From Page 1

Experts in higher education Title IX policy said Title IX training helps faculty and staff navigate how to respond to sexual harassment and gender discrimination complaints. They said the low number of employees who have participated in the training at GW could pose a “danger” to students, who may not be able to get the assistance they need without trained staff.

Adrienne Lyles, the executive director and Title IX coordinator in the Office for Gender Equity and Inclusion at the University of Cincinnati, said GW’s nonrequired training and low rate of faculty completion is typical for universities because of the difficulties in coordinating voluntary training for hundreds of employees. The current federal policy only requires staff in the Title IX office to be trained, not all other faculty and staff.

“I do not think it’s just Title IX,” she said. “Faculty, like everyone, they’re tired. They feel overwhelmed. And, if whatever training it is isn’t created with their participation and buy-in, it’s hard to get them to want to do it. And that’s not a Title IX thing, that’s a training thing. And it is nationwide.”

Christina Percoski, a training specialist at Syracuse University, said Syracuse registered 100 percent

participation among its employees as part of mandatory Title IX training during the previous academic year. She said New York requires annual sexual harassment prevention training for employers with a staff larger than 15 people.

The District does not require colleges and universities to conduct Title IX training for faculty and staff, but other local institutions – like American, Catholic and Gallaudet universities – require their employees to receive training once hired.

Percoski said increasing participation numbers for voluntary Title IX training can be “difficult” with faculty balancing heavy workloads and conflicting obligations. She said mandatory Title IX training gives all employees the same level of knowledge on how to deal with sexual assault and gender discrimination complaints.

“I think the danger there is that a student might not get information that they might need to make the decision that is right for them in that situation,” she said. “The first person that a victim of sexual violence connects with makes such an impact on how that person gets help.”

All faculty members at GW are designated reporters, meaning they are required to report accusations of sexual harassment, assault and domestic violence to GW’s Title IX coordinator, according to the Title IX Office website.

### TWEETED

I spend 95% of my day thinking about @GW\_MBB

Kate Carpenter  
on 11/12/2022  
TWITTER/@KATENOELLE12

## Officials establish regional medical campus at Baltimore hospital

**DANIEL PATRICK GALGANO**  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The School of Medicine and Health Sciences will establish a regional medical campus at Sinai Hospital in Baltimore, according to a release.

GW and LifeBridge Health – a Maryland-based company that manages Sinai Hospital – signed an agreement that will allow a cohort 30 third and fourth-year students to study at the hospital, starting in the Spring. SMHS Dean and CEO of the Medical Faculty Associates Barbara Bass said GW medical students have been studying at Sinai Hospital as a clinical rotation sites for

several years and officials hope some students will continue their studies there.

“This is an exciting new chapter for the GW SMHS MD program – and we are thrilled to partner with LifeBridge Health to expand our presence outside of D.C. and to establish guaranteed access for clinical training of a cohort of our students in an environment that is different than the main campus experience and complementary to the clinical public health focus of the SMHS curriculum,” Bass said in a release.

LifeBridge also has similar agreements with other institutions like the University of

Maryland, Georgetown and Johns Hopkins universities, as Maryland tries to attract younger medical professionals to the state where almost half of the active physicians are over the age of 55, according to a 2018 study by the Robert Graham Center.

Bass said the new regional campus will give GW students access to medical technology and community health programs that are not necessarily available in Foggy Bottom.

“The new RMC will establish a long-term relationship between GW and LifeBridge Health and we hope will foster additional strategic partnerships, research collaborations,

and training opportunities for other GW learners,” she said.

Students enrolled in the program will need to spend two years of instruction on SMHS’s Foggy Bottom campus before being allowed to complete a one-year clerkship and specialty elective courses at Sinai Hospital, according to the release. The new campus will be accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education through the already-existing Maryland programs and faculty at the new campus will also receive appointments at SMHS, according to the release.

Niel Meltzer, LifeBridge Health’s president and CEO,

said the partnership will allow students and faculty to participate in medical research that will benefit the local Baltimore community.

“At LifeBridge Health, these medical students will be able to take advantage of cutting-edge innovation and unique learning experiences that we can offer within our multi-faceted, community-focused health system,” he said. “We look forward to welcoming the first cohort of GW students to LifeBridge Health and broadening the relationship that we have with the George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences.”

# Opinions

## WHAT THE UNIVERSITY WON'T TALK ABOUT THIS WEEK

What equipment upgrades and space reconfigurations officials made to Lerner. p. 2

FROM GWHATCHET.COM/OPINIONS

"As a queer person with a uterus, my anxiety was at an all-time high thinking that people could ever vote against my existence as a human."

— RILEY GOODFELLOW on 11/10/2022

## GW must promote its Spanish language study abroad programs beyond Spain

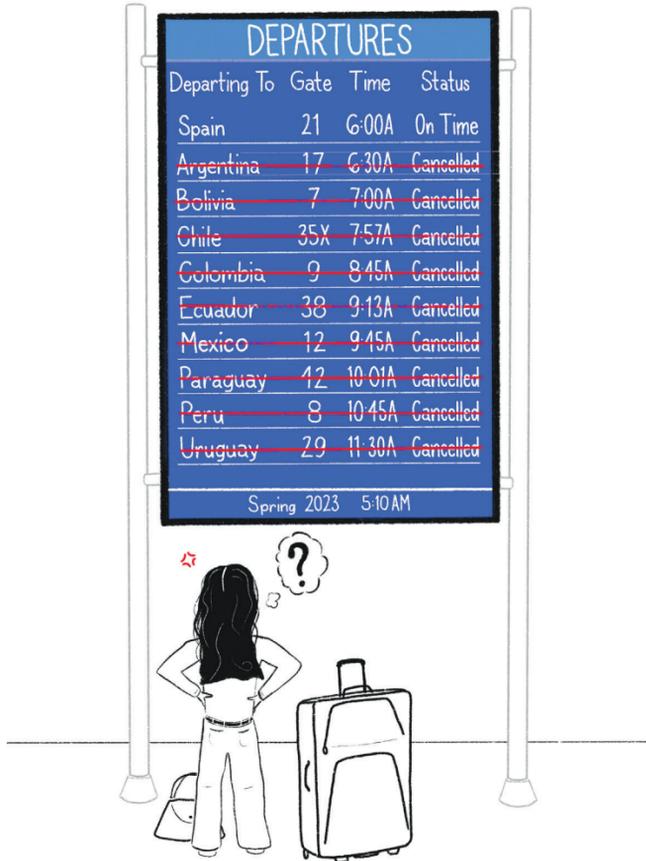
Since the seventh grade, I've listened to American-born, native English-speaking Spanish teachers describe their metamorphosis after traveling abroad to Spain for their junior or senior year of college. While studying in Spain can be its own reward, I want an equal opportunity to study all the dialects of Spanish in Hispanic countries in the Americas, not just Castilian Spanish, the dialect specific to Spain that has occupied the forefront of my Spanish education.

Paige Baratta  
Opinions Writer

The dialects in Spanish-speaking countries in the Americas have their own rich grammar and vocabulary that differs from that of Castilian Spanish, and studying abroad in these places is truly the only way to fully master these accents and their nuanced grammar. But GW's inconsistent and at times patronizing advertisement of study abroad programs in Spanish-speaking countries in the Americas denies its students the opportunity to enrich themselves through study abroad programs in these countries.

GW continues to promote its study abroad programs throughout all of Spain, but it neglects to give its Spanish study abroad programs in the Americas the same attention. The Office for Study Abroad, or OSA, has a duty to ensure that all of its programs are equally enriching and fairly advertised. If GW truly wishes to provide vast cultural and language learning opportunities to its students, OSA must expand its offerings in Spanish-speaking countries in the Americas and stop perpetuating stereotypes about these countries through its advertising strategies.

Excluding medical and graduate programs, GW offers six long-term study abroad programs in



MAURA KELLY-YUOH | STAFF CARTOONIST

Spain and a combined 12 study abroad programs throughout Hispanic countries in the Americas. But GW's study abroad programs in Spain commonly overshadow the rest in the Western Hemisphere. During GW's virtual study abroad fair this September, OSA held information sessions on programs in Seville, Madrid, Barcelona and Pam-

plona — all cities located in Spain. For Spanish-speaking countries in the Americas, OSA only held virtual information sessions for one program in Chile and one in Colombia, leaving 10 other programs unmentioned. Accessibility to information about Spanish study abroad programs and equal representation of the various abroad opportunities

in Spanish-speaking countries is critical to where students decide to travel and the learning experiences they receive.

The difference between how the OSA describes programs in Spain and those in the Americas is even more jarring. While both Madrid and Chile are part of GW's featured study abroad programs, GW's Madrid program summary discusses the academic curriculum and its partnership with Madrid's "premier national university." But the summary for Chile's study abroad program references how the country is "beginning to play an important role" globally and provides an opportunity to experience both "political and cultural challenges." While OSA praises the distinguished academic experience offered in Madrid, it depicts Chile through a distant lens, encouraging potential learners to treat them and their country as fundamentally different from GW and its students. This distinction is both unfair and untrue.

The limited opportunities for students to study Spanish in South America likely stems from the widespread but incorrect belief that the region is unsafe. This misconception can push GW students away from Spanish-speaking countries in the Americas and further compound the OSA's imbalance between abroad programs in Spain and those in the Americas. The U.S. State Department issues travel advisories for countries on a scale from 1 to 4, with 1 signifying that travelers should take normal precautions and 4 meaning U.S. citizens should not travel there. Every country in South America where a GW Study Abroad program is based is ranked as a 1 or 2. European countries like Germany, France, Spain, Italy and the United Kingdom currently sit at the same level 2 threat advisory for travel. Not to mention, D.C. has higher crime rates than the cities of

Medellín and Cartagena in Colombia and Santiago, Chile.

By widely advertising and glorifying its study abroad programs in Spain through OSA, GW's Spanish language curriculum pushes students down one particular path of Spanish-language education and Castilian Spanish, the Spanish dialect spoken in Spain. The dialect is commonly regarded as the "purest" form of the language. The Real Academia Española, the authority on Spanish language and grammar, advertises its dictionaries as "providing the linguistic norms" of the language in accordance with Castilian Spanish. The Real Academia Española promotes a Eurocentric view of the Spanish language as a whole, sidestepping the cultural enrichment of dialectal differences in Spanish speaking countries in the Americas. The more GW advertises abroad programs in Spain, the more students favor learning the Castilian Spanish dialect and embody that Eurocentric perspective of the Spanish language. The Spanish language does not belong solely to Spain, and GW needs to help promote this understanding through an equal advertisement of its Spanish language exchange programs.

GW's Office for Study Abroad must commit itself to a multicultural perspective and promote all study abroad opportunities on an equal footing. Its current bias in favor of Spain and subsequent patronizing attitude toward dialects of Spanish in the Americas and culture are unacceptable. After disregarding them for so long, the office needs to review its approach to advertising study abroad programs in Central and South America and more widely promote the opportunities students have to study abroad in these countries.

— Paige Baratta, a freshman studying political science, is an opinions writer.

## Amid lawsuits over affirmative action, GW should recommit to diversity

### STAFF EDITORIAL

The U.S. Supreme Court's conservative majority's skepticism about race-conscious admissions could upturn how GW and other universities evaluate prospective students. Students for Fair Admissions, an organization led by anti-affirmative action activist Edward Blum, alleges that Harvard University's and the University of North Carolina's admissions policies unfairly reject Asian and white applicants because of their race.

But demanding that universities ignore the backgrounds of their applicants in the name of "race-blind" admissions misunderstands the role of diversity in higher education. "Diversity encourages students to question their own assumptions, to test received truths and to appreciate the complexity of the modern world," the brief GW and 15 other institutions filed in support of Harvard in the affirmative action lawsuit in 2018 states. And with or without affirmative action as we know it, such diversity is worth defending.

Affirmative action pushed public universities like UNC and private universities that receive federal funding like Harvard to actively enroll students of color after decades of discriminatory admissions.

GW, with its own sordid history of segregation, is no exception. In 1938, then-President Cloyd Heck

Marvin wrote that "students of any race or color perform their best" when they are in a "homogenous group, and the University, in its tradition and social environment, has long preserved this policy." GW officially accepted all students regardless of race in 1954 despite Marvin's opposition. It was the last D.C. area university to desegregate its admissions process.

GW is still a predominantly white University — 47.1 percent of all students enrolled in 2021 were white. But from 2012 to 2021, the percentage of Hispanic, Black and Asian students enrolled at GW has respectively increased from 5.9 to 10.2 percent, 8.7 to 10.7 percent and 8.6 to 11.5 percent for Asian students, according to the University's enrollment dashboard.

Living and learning alongside people whose experiences, identities and perspectives differ from each other is critical to the mission of any university. And while officials at GW and other institutions could certainly do better to clarify their "holistic" admissions process, those who cry foul over affirmative action or bemoan "reverse discrimination" should know that no U.S. college admits or denies prospective students solely because of their race. Race-conscious admissions treat an applicant's race as one of many factors, like academic performance or extracurricular interests, rather than a decisive

one. Doing so expands minority students' access to historically segregated institutions of higher education.

Affirmative action isn't the problem — an already exclusive higher education industry that favors wealthier, whiter legacy applicants over others is. In 2011, The Hatchet reported that applicants with a parent who attended GW are 1.5 times more likely to be accepted into the University. So instead of litigating who among thousands of applicants deserves each and every crumb, the solution is to make the metaphorical pie bigger and admit more students of all backgrounds.

Still, the Supreme Court's conservative majority stands poised to toss affirmative action into the dustbin of history.

The University should seize this opportunity to explain how it evaluates an applicant's race in its admissions process, recognize the members of its student body and put this anti-affirmative action hysteria to bed. The future of GW's admissions policy is an early and urgent test of the University's values.

Desegregation marked the beginning of the end of one GW, but creating a diverse student body is a work in progress. Whatever the fate of affirmative action, wiping out prejudice — and acknowledging every facet of students' identities — will always remain relevant at GW.

## After years of inaction, students need on-campus sexual assault resources

**Editor's note:** This post contains references to sexual assault. If you have been affected by sexual assault, contact the National Sexual Assault Hotline at 800-656-4673 for free, confidential support 24/7 or visit [online.rainn.org](https://online.rainn.org). If you have any questions about this column, please contact the editor at [eic@gwhatchet.com](mailto:eic@gwhatchet.com)

My mandatory training as part of New Student Orientation informed me about quick tips on campus, like where to get the best latte — and that I'd need to travel across D.C. if I ever needed a rape kit. Neither the GW Hospital nor Student Health Center offers rape kits. If I find myself a survivor of sexual assault, it will be my responsibility to go to MedStar Washington Hospital Center, the only D.C. hospital that provides medical forensic exams, just for the collection of evidence to seek justice.

Terra Pilch-Bisson  
Opinions Writer

This is the reality for all survivors of sexual assault and violence at GW and in D.C. The University has a responsibility to leverage its connections with the GW Hospital to ensure on-campus resources for sexual assault survivors, including the provision of rape kits.

Ambulance services like EMERG can quickly transport survivors of sexual assault to receive medical services at the GW Hospital, which is owned by Universal Health Services. But because the hospital doesn't provide rape kits, which are ideally

administered between 24 to 48 hours after an assault takes place, patients can't seek justice after their initial injuries are treated there.

The MedStar hospital receives funding to provide medical forensic exams through the national Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner program, or SANE, which trains and organizes personnel to administer them. Without SANE, which D.C. originally began at Howard University Hospital in 2000, hospitals lack the required expertise to properly administer exams with care and respect to patients.

When Howard University Hospital withdrew from SANE in 2008, Denise Snyder, the director of the D.C. Rape Crisis Center, contacted all major hospitals in the city and received little to no interest in hosting SANE, according to the Washington City Paper. The GW Hospital was "historically resistant to providing [sexual assault] services outside the University community" according to minutes from a SANE meeting on the issue. The GW Hospital's reluctance to provide rape kits risks the health of those within and far beyond Foggy Bottom — if MedStar chose to discontinue its SANE program, the entire city would be left without access to rape kits.

GW Hospital's administration and University officials, whose Student Health Center does not provide rape kits either, have repeatedly turned a blind eye to this gaping hole in sexual assault policy.

Considering that 13 percent of all college students experience sexual assault during their academic career, it's bizarrely unjust that the most accessible and publicized medical facilities on GW's campus are so wholly unequipped to provide support for survivors of sexual assault. And the manner in which the University informs students about the lack of rape kits during orientation leaves sexual assault survivors on campus in a deeply emotionally and physically draining situation with both financial and practical barriers to receiving treatment at MedStar.

Rape kits are no solution to addressing the root causes of sexual assault and violence, but they are a necessary form of quantifiable evidence with which survivors support their cases in court. Barriers to accessing them make an already-imperfect system worse for survivors.

The GW Hospital must support students and its surrounding neighborhoods by providing easily accessible rape kits. A "not our problem" liability statement during orientation can't replace comprehensive support for survivors, and it certainly doesn't cultivate an environment of safety and comfort for students. Students have been demanding rape kits on campus for more than a decade — it's time to do something about it.

— Terra Pilch-Bisson, a freshman majoring in American Studies, is an opinions writer.

The GW  
Hatchet

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# Culture

## THE SCENE

**A WINDOW SUDDENLY OPENS: CONTEMPORARY PHOTOGRAPHY IN CHINA**  
Daily | Hirshhorn Museum & Sculpture Garden | Free admission  
Enrich your knowledge of art history by learning about multigenerational Chinese photographers.

**JUST FOR US**  
Wednesday, Nov. 16 | Woolly Mammoth Theatre | Tickets starting at \$5  
Attend a poignant play directed by Adam Brace featuring Alex Edelman's third solo show.

## RELEASED THIS WEEK:

NEW EP: "EVERYTHING TO EVERYONE" BY RENEÉ RAPP

## A glimpse into the history and culture of D.C.'s rollerskating community

MAXIMUS VOGT  
REPORTER

To avid skater Saletta Coleman, roller skating in D.C. is a "fractured" scene.

The District has lacked a cohesive roller-skating space for the last 30 years since two of its most popular skating sites shut down, and as roller rinks disappear while large-scale grocery stores with high-end housing pop-up, room for this long-beloved hobby in D.C. remains dependent on the community that carves it out. So Coleman has taken it upon herself to turn venues like The Anthem at The Wharf into roller rinks to engage and cultivate the roller skating community in the city.

Coleman — the founder of GetYourSk8on, an organization that showcases skating events in several cities including D.C. and provides online resources to help skaters find and travel to events — said she plans skating events wherever she can find space in D.C. Whether at fashion events, galas, skate lessons or her Legends Heels, Hats and Wheels skate party at The Anthem last month, she has drawn skaters both regional and international to share in this common D.C. pastime.

"Anybody can roller skate, and that's kind of what makes it so awesome," Coleman said. "You gather with friends from around the country a few times a year, and it's like a big family reunion. When you're all together, you're under a groove."

Nearly 19 years ago she cre-



The predominantly Black community of local roller skaters refer to the DMV area as Snap City, a name adopted after the act of "snappin" — a one-footed skating move that involves the rapid transition of forward motion to backward.

ated GetYourSk8on, a website providing skaters with a calendar of events in D.C., a skating news source and videos of fellow skaters.

The history of roller skating in D.C. among the Black community goes back not only to the disco, rhinestone-sequin clad rollers of the 1970's, but rather finds itself in tandem with the initial national rise of roller skating in the 1880's.

Coleman said Black Americans at the time found themselves unable to access public rinks due to racial segregation, and this fight for equal access to recreational space drove activism for racial justice into the 20th century. Even after rinks integrated, this ongoing struggle for space existed throughout the history of roller skating in D.C., as the Black community faced rink

closures throughout the latter part of the 20th century due to gentrification and subsequent urban redevelopment.

"When African Americans started roller skating or got into roller skating, they had to skate outside," Coleman said. "So we're used to being pushed outside."

D.C. was previously home to some of the largest rinks in the na-

tion, including the multi-purpose sports arena Riverside Stadium, which was demolished to make way for the Kennedy Center, which was built in 1964, and the National Arena in Adams Morgan that closed in 1984 and later transformed into a Harris Teeter grocery store and adjoining apartments in 2013.

Coleman said the predominantly Black community of local roller skaters refer to the DMV area as Snap City, a name adopted after the act of "snappin" — a one-footed skating move that involves the rapid transition of forward motion to backward.

Invigorated by the same passion Coleman harnessed to organize skaters nearly two decades ago, skating aficionados Darren W. Jackson II and Pejay Camacho founded TheLinkUpDC early last year, which hosts pop-up skating events and skating lessons, showcasing style skaters from across the DMV.

Their Instagram account has garnered more than 37,000 followers, and they credit much of their success to the talent of D.C. skaters showcased on the page. Jackson and Camacho take pride that Snap City is relatively small and feel protective of its identity and the love that surrounds it.

Jackson and Camacho said after relocating to D.C. for their careers, the two quickly started going to the rinks almost every day early last year to skate in Snap City and connect with the community that composes it.



LILY SPERDELOZZI | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Mitchell, who averages about 20 miles biked per day, particularly enjoys riding on sunny days when he can feel the heat on his face and appreciate an unexpected breeze.

## Meet the bike rider who glides through campus to feel-good jams

CLARA DUHON  
CULTURE EDITOR

While walking around campus, a familiar face singing along to the likes of Stevie Wonder and Anderson .Paak while whizzing by on a bike may have caught your attention more than once.

Alumnus Dylan Mitchell, who graduated from GW last spring, has emerged as a recognizable bike rider in the neighborhood over the past year for his fast speeds, ample tricks and groovy music exuding from a speaker on his bike. Rain or shine, Mitchell hits the streets with his bike on the daily, riding anywhere from his home near Columbia Heights to his old place in NoMa, the National Mall or down the canal path in Georgetown.

As he dove into biking as a sophomore, he glided through campus to catch up with his friends wherever they might pop on his routes, like a roommate who frequented Duques Hall or buddies who would honk their horns at him from their cars. But Mitchell said he also enjoys the influx of new interactions he's shared since he began biking around campus as people approach him to chat about his music selection, tricks or whatever's on their mind.

"There's people that have come up to me and have talked to me, and I recognize them, and stop me every time," he said. "I always stop, have a conversation."

Mitchell's strong love of riding materialized after his family gifted him a bike to ride to school when he lived in NoMa in early 2020.

He quickly began attempting tricks like standing up and jumping on his bike, particularly while cycling up and down the Reflecting Pool. His assortment of tricks developed as he learned how to jump and swerve around on his bike.

Mitchell — who rides between three and six hours each day, averaging about 20 miles — enjoys biking on sunny days when he can feel the heat on his face and appreciate an unexpected breeze. The open-endedness and independence of his rides, especially on the canal path in Georgetown, keep him coming back day after day.

On his rides, Mitchell appreciates connecting with members of the local community. He said when he plays old R&B like Luther Vandross, older generations of Black passersby recognize the music and start singing along and dancing to it.

From his run-in with the Secret Service to accounts of D.C. political drama from strangers who come up to chat, Mitchell said he has encountered several "crazy," "one-chance encounters" on his rides. Once when he was down by the National Mall, an old man flagged him down, extended a \$5 bill and asked Mitchell to perform some tricks. Last week during a ride on campus, an onlook-

er affectionately told him "you're my drug!"

Mitchell said he enjoys riding his bike around campus but has faced a range of blows in the area, from "at least" three popped tires to vehicular accidents.

He said he got into two accidents at the intersection of 21st and H streets two days in a row last week, consisting of a slam into the front of an oncoming car on the first day and a flip caused by a loose chain after that. He came away from the latter with a busted lip and a scraped-up knee and right forearm.

And not many students can say one of their #OnlyAtGW moments involves the Secret Service checking to see if they are alright after wiping out in front of them on 17th Street, but Mitchell can.

When he isn't swerving through the streets of D.C., Mitchell job hunts and dabbles in creative endeavors like sketching, gardening and cooking. He's on his second sketchbook, filling the pages with drawings of architecture and moments he's shared with friends.

At his home near Columbia Heights, he tackles various projects like creating an irrigation system for his growing collection of plants that envelop his space, but he sometimes finds himself disinterested in the day-to-day activities. The only exception? Biking.

"I do get bored easily, so that's why I like biking," he said. "I'll never get bored of biking. There's always something different to see."

## 'Friends' star Matthew Perry talks book detailing substance addiction

KRISHNA RAJPARA  
STAFF WRITER

Actor and TV star Mathew Perry received a standing ovation at the start of his live tell-all and dug deeper into his childhood, critical success and challenges of coping with his addiction in promotion of his newly released memoir.

Perry said his goal to finish writing "Friends, Lovers, and the Big Terrible Thing" was to ensure that his sobriety would remain "safe," while also providing hope to help other people struggling with the serious nature of addiction. The live interview marked the third out of four stops on Perry's book tour and was led by New York Times journalist Lulu Garcia-Navarro last week at Warner Theatre downtown.

Perry rose to stardom playing the sarcastic but sweet role of Chandler Bing in the hit sitcom "Friends," but performed on camera as early as 1991 during a guest appearance in the original "90210."

"I knew how I wanted to start it, which was this horrible night in my life," Perry said of the start of his book. "I almost died. I wanted to tell that story and how I came out of that and how my resiliency and my strength that I didn't really know was there came out and I was able to get better enough to be here."

Before embarking deeper into the conversation about "the big, terrible thing," Perry touched on growing up in the shadow

of his accomplished parents — actor John Bennett and former press secretary of Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau Suzanne Perry — and his struggle growing up with divorced parents, who separated when he was only a year old.

Continuing the conversation on his complex filial relationships, Perry said his affinity for comedy stemmed from a desire for parental attention, even when it came to basic needs.

"I became funny as a result of my mother not giving me proper attention, sometimes crying, not feeding me," Perry said.

Perry and Garcia-Navarro shifted the discussion to Perry's first encounter with alcohol and drugs and his subsequent descent into the "linear" nature of addiction, which he describes as only worsening as it continues. Perry said he felt all his problems drift away when he drank an entire bottle of wine as his first taste of alcohol at the age of 14 — a feeling he thought "normal people" experienced often.

"Nothing was wrong, fighting with my mother, being, feeling alone, none of that stuff," Perry said. "I was just looking at the clouds, and it all went away and I felt wonderful."

Perry said his experience early in his career as a young actor struggling to make it in L.A. further normalized the drinking culture and party life of the 1980's, referencing his association with actor Hank Azaria and the Brat Pack — a friend group of famous actors — in his

book. As his addiction continued, Perry said he always knew that "something was wrong," as he continued to drink heavily even during the high points of his life, which pushed him to keep his struggles a "secret."

"In that, my greatest moments, I would, in the back of my head, I'd go 'why,' and I say that in the book, 'Why? Why can't I stop drinking? Julia Roberts is your girlfriend! Why can't I stop drinking? What's the matter?'" Perry said. "It wasn't until years later that I found out what was going on."

Perry said he had to "lock" himself up by checking into rehab a total of 14 times when he felt fear take over. The actor, who has not had a drink since 2005, said he felt a desire for life and wanted to experience as much of humanity as possible, which sustained his perseverance.

"I got scared, and I thought, if I keep this up, I'm going to die," Perry said. "And I don't want to die because I haven't learned everything there is on this land yet. And I want to learn. I want love. I want to have a child."

As Perry neared the end of his tell-all, he shared some words of wisdom with the audience that reiterated his message of relentless perseverance for anyone struggling with "the big, terrible thing."

"You can get as far down on the scale and you can still come back from it," Perry said. "Don't give up. It's not a death sentence unless you let it be."

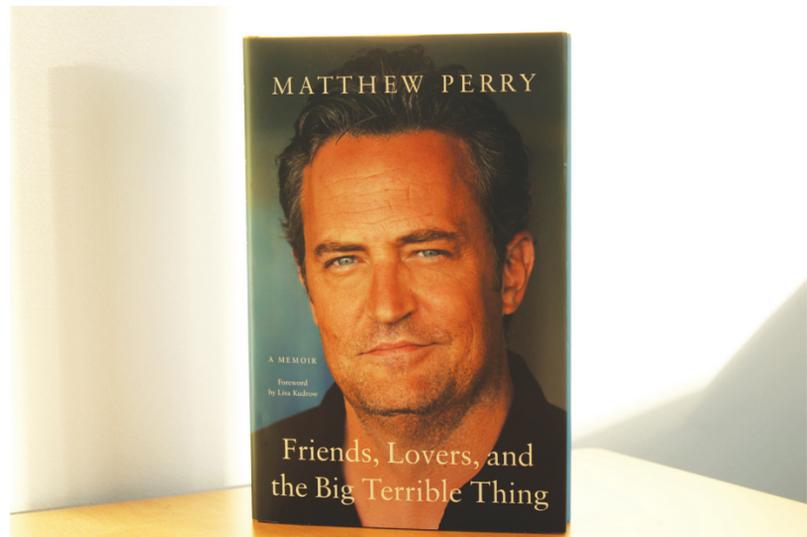


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY KRISHNA RAJPARA | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

Perry said his experience early in his career as a young actor struggling to make it in Los Angeles further normalized the drinking culture and party life of the 1980's.

# Sports

## GAMES OF THE WEEK



**WOMEN'S BASKETBALL**  
at Howard  
Monday | 7 p.m. EDT  
GW heads across the District to take on the Bison as the Colonials look for their second consecutive victory.



**MEN'S BASKETBALL**  
vs. Maryland Eastern Shore  
Friday | 7 p.m. EDT  
The Colonials look for their third straight victory as they welcome the Hawks to the Smith Center.

**NUMBER CRUNCH** **.875**

Men's water polo's conference winning percentage this season, good for second place in the conference standings.

## Men's basketball secures victory against crosstown rival Howard

**JADEN DIMAURO**  
STAFF WRITER

Men's basketball secured their second consecutive victory in an electric performance at home, taking down their crosstown rival Howard.

After years of lackluster attendance and fan engagement, Head Coach Chris Caputo and men's basketball had the Smith Center rocking again with their 85-75 win over Howard Friday night. Senior forward Ricky Lindo Jr. and freshman guard Maximus Edwards combined for 37 points and 17 rebounds on the way to a Colonials victory.

"I'm almost speechless about how good the students have been," Caputo said in a post-game interview. "In particular in this building, how loud it gets, it's perfect for a college basketball environment like we have it. It's not cookie-cutter, it's a unique building. I just think it's awesome."

The game got off to a high-flying, helter-skelter start, with 8 of the Colonials' first 10 points coming from dunks, the first of which, a monstrous put-back from senior forward Ricky Lindo Jr., sent the already-buzzing crowd into a state of pandemonium.

Lindo led GW on both ends of the court all night, scoring a game-high 19 points and pulling down nine boards and swatting four Bison shots.

"I took what the defense gave me," Lindo Jr. said. "Put-backs, rebounds, threes, just getting into a good 3-point position."

After a back-and-forth start kept the score knotted at 8 points after

six minutes of play, the Colonials began to pull away. Graduate student guard Brendan Adams brought the GW offense under his control and drilled a 3-pointer to punctuate an 8-0 GW run that put the Colonials up 16-8 nearly halfway through the first half.

But the Bison weren't ready to back down just yet. A dunk from sophomore guard Bryce Harris off a back cut and a fast-break finish by junior forward Jordan Wood forced GW to call timeout in an attempt to stop the bleeding. Led by Harris, who finished the night with a team-high 19 points, Howard stormed back to within 1 with 4:17 to go in the half.

After the timeout, neither team was able to gain a clear advantage, and the Colonials went into halftime clinging to a 36-32 lead.

Howard came out of the gate firing after the break, despite Edwards hitting a three for GW's first shot of the half. Harris was particularly aggressive, scoring the first points of the half for the Bison off another backdoor cut and pulling down a huge offensive rebound before dishing the ball to junior forward Steve Settle, III, who laid it in to tie the game at 41 points a piece.

But from that point on, GW hit the gas and never looked back. Edwards, who only scored 6 points in the first half, was the star of the second, finishing the game with 18 points while shooting a scorching-hot 60 percent from the field.

"He's a talented young player," Caputo said. "He's got some dexterity and proprioception, knowing where you are in space, he has a really good feeling, he's got



Eight of the Colonials' first 10 points came from dunks, the first of which, a monstrous put-back from senior forward Ricky Lindo Jr., sent the already-buzzing crowd into a state of pandemonium.

JENNIFER IGBONOBA | PHOTOGRAPHER

it."

Senior forward Hunter Dean also came up big for the Colonials in the second half, with 10 of his 14 points coming after the break. Dean, who was one of the five GW players on the court to start the second half despite originally coming off the bench, said he wasn't aware of the change to the starting lineup ahead of time.

"I had no idea," Dean said.

"When they call my number, I just make sure I'm ready to go."

In addition to scoring, Dean pulled down nine big rebounds and sunk all four of his free throws.

Getting to the line was key to GW's success, as 23 of their 85 points came from the charity stripe. Lindo led the Colonials in the category, making all eight of his tries.

"No matter what happens, if

we get fouled, we've got to hit our free throws," Lindo said. "They're the easiest points besides a layup, dunks too."

Thanks in part to Lindo and Dean, the Colonials dominated the glass all night, pulling down nine offensive boards and out-rebounding the Bison 39-22 overall.

The Colonials will travel to Long Island, New York Monday to face Hofstra. Tip-off is at 7 p.m.

## Women's basketball records first win of season over Maryland Eastern Shore

**OWEN AVERILL**  
REPORTER

Women's basketball won their first game of the season against Maryland Eastern Shore Thursday, soundly defeating the Hawks 65-50 in a show of dominance behind the 3-point line, spurred by precise ball movement and lockdown defense.

The Colonials (1-1), made quick work of the struggling Hawks (0-2), maintaining a double-digit lead for much of the game thanks to efficient work from behind the arc from their guards senior Essence Brown and junior Taylor Webster, who combined for 21 points. The Hawks failed to connect offensively, shooting just 1-17 from deep while the Colonials forced 15 turnovers.

Junior Zamara Haynes kept the Hawks offense afloat for much of the game with a stellar performance, scoring 19 points and grabbing seven rebounds, the highest of any Hawks player on the night. But Haynes alone could not make up for the rest of the team's shooting struggles as the Hawks shot for 29 percent on the night.

Brown led GW's offense with 12 points and five assists, a team high in both categories. GW's offensive prowess stood out, and the team's bench outscored Maryland Eastern Shore 29-14 with four players scoring at least 10 points.

"I think we have players that can consistently score around 10 points, so I really like the balance that we have on this team," Head Coach Caroline McCombs said after the game. "So if somebody's open, we do want them to take that shot, and we feel like they can knock it down."

Redshirt senior forward Mayowa Taiwo, who collected her 500th career rebound for the Colonials against the Hawks, was instrumental in helping the Colonials retain the ball, recording a game-high nine boards.

"She makes amazing plays for us defensively, and so I'm proud of her," McCombs said of Taiwo. "I'm happy for her for that accomplishment. She puts in the work and she deserves it."

GW managed to outscore Maryland Eastern Shore in the paint, recording 22 points to the Hawks' 20. The Hawks' shooting deficiencies behind the 3-point line with just one deep ball made the difference as GW drained 10 3-pointers.

"We play kind of like a position-less style of basketball, and we share the ball a lot with each other," redshirt senior Mayowa Taiwo said after the game. "So I think that showed upstairs today in the fact that multiple people were able to score over five points."

The Colonials charged

out to an early lead in the first quarter as Brown worked in and out of the paint, draining a 3-pointer, then following it with a jumper in the paint to push the Colonials up seven. The 3-pointers didn't stop there as graduate student guards Mia Lakstigala and Jayla Thornton connected for early triples of their own.

"Over the off-season we were just able to get a lot of shots up," Brown said. "We did a Curry Club thing that we do to get a lot of 3s up, so I've been just working on my shot a lot."

Senior forward Faith Blethen closed out the quarter strong for the Colonials, scoring an inside layup before knocking down two free throws to give GW a 9-point lead at the first buzzer.

Lakstigala went back and forth with the Hawks' Haynes, sandwiching a Haynes layup with two 3-pointers. Shooting three for five from deep in the second quarter, the Colonials never again saw their lead drop below 10.

By the end of the third the Colonials were up 18, their biggest lead to end a quarter.

After extending their lead early in the quarter, GW's advantage collapsed down to 15 after relentless drives from the Hawks but clung onto the lead until the final buzzer.

GW looks to continue its winning ways at 7 p.m. against Howard Monday.



MAYA NAIR | PHOTOGRAPHER

The Hawks' shooting deficiencies behind the 3-point line, with just one deep ball, made the difference as GW drained 10 3-pointers.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY JORDYN BAILER | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

In October 2019, the NCAA Board of Governors unanimously voted to allow student-athletes to make money off their name, image and likeness.

## Alumni collective initiates NIL partnership with GW Athletics

**GABE LOPEZ**  
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An alumni-created collective is helping GW student-athletes connect with businesses and fans to benefit off the popularity of their name, image and likeness, officials announced Friday.

Friends of George, a collective funded by alumni and fans and not affiliated with the University, was created to foster opportunities for GW student-athletes to benefit from NIL regulations through tiered fan subscriptions or single contributions, according to a release issued Friday which introduced the group.

Student-athletes will be able to benefit through autograph signings, social media promotions and even offering personal coaching and training, and they will keep 85 to 90 percent of contributions that are made to Friends of George, according to their website.

In Oct. 2019, the NCAA Board of Governors unanimously voted to allow student-athletes to make money off their name, image and likeness, reversing their policy requiring student-athletes to be uncompensated amateurs. This policy went into full effect by July 2021.

The release said that the collective has no role in recruitment, nor does it offer

benefits "based on playing time or performance" of participating student-athletes.

"Rather, the concept is for GW fans to collectively resource funds together in a common pool that pays out for legitimate opportunities for student-athletes to perform duties based on the popularity of their name, image and likeness," the release said.

When asked about the collective in a post-game interview, head men's basketball Coach Chris Caputo said that it will give GW "an NIL presence" to help them accomplish their competitive goals.

"And the good thing about it is we have an incredible institution for it, an incredible location for it and certainly there are going to be opportunities through that for student engagement as well," Caputo said.

Those who wish to contribute can purchase a subscription ranging from \$10 to \$500 per month, or they can pay with a one-time contribution, according to the Friends of George website. Contributors can donate to specific sports, or they can enter into nonexclusive contracts with specific student-athletes, if they choose.

According to the Friends of George website, GW student-athletes will also be allowed to issue nonfungible tokens, also known as NFTs, for sponsors and brands,

and participating student-athletes will receive their rewards on a monthly basis.

The \$10 monthly plan gives contributors exclusive interviews and content with student-athletes, access to supporter events and student meet and greet sessions and a raffle for autographed memorabilia. The \$25, \$50 and \$100 monthly plans include all those benefits but add Friends of George apparel, an autographed poster and custom student-athlete video shoutouts, respectively.

The \$250 monthly plan includes all previous benefits but adds exclusive student-athlete NFTs, autographed memorabilia and virtual training with student-athletes. The \$500 monthly plan allows contributors to have in-person training with student-athletes, in addition to all previous benefits.

Alumnus Aahil Shermohammed, an NBA agent and former manager of the GW men's basketball team, serves as CEO of Friends of George. NIL collectives were being created across the country, the NCAA announced in a May press release that collectives are allowed under its regulations only if they are considered a booster — a third-party group that helps to promote an athletics program and assists in providing benefits to recruits, student-athletes or their family members.