

# The GW Hatchet

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## Report accuses SA finance committee chair of negligence, bias while managing student funds

**ERIKA FILTER**  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

**ZACH BLACKBURN**  
SENIOR NEWS EDITOR

Student Association leaders issued a scathing report Saturday finding SA Sen. Ian Ching, ESIA-U and the chair of the finance committee, has failed to perform his duties managing student organization funding, leading to delays and accusations of bias within the allocations process.

The report alleges Ching delayed the launch of the application for spring SA funding to student organizations by about two months while providing preferential treatment for his friends in other student organizations, like GWU Esports, as part of five bylaw violations relating to finance deadlines and decorum. The report calls for the SA Senate to censure and immediately remove Ching from his position as chair of the finance committee.

The senate could vote on a resolution, based on the report, that would remove Ching from his post as the chair of the finance committee and require he publicly apologize for his misconduct as soon as Monday night, when the senate next meets. The Governance and Nominations Committee, which addresses censure cases, drafted a resolution Sunday based on the report submitted by the Office of Senate Legal Counsel.

"It is beyond anything I've seen in the Student Association and requires its immediate attention," Senate Legal Counsel Juan Carlos Mora, who authored the report, said to the committee Sunday.

In a statement to The Hatchet, Ching said the report does not include his perspective. He said he "never hid" his support for some student organizations, but he has not interfered in decisions about funding for those organizations.

"I have served as a student organization treasurer and e-board member for



FILE PHOTO BY AUDEN YURMAN | SENIOR PHOTO EDITOR

The report states student organization leaders have raised complaints about Ching to administrators, including a brazen disregard of rules requiring him to familiarize student organizations with the allocations process.

three years, and I am the only member of the finance committee who has had experience dealing with the finance committee from the other side," he said.

The report states student organization leaders have raised complaints about Ching to administrators, including a brazen disregard of rules requiring him to familiarize student organizations with the allocations process.

When Ching hosted a required meeting earlier this month for student organization leaders to familiarize themselves with the budget allocations process, he filmed himself greeting student leaders before quickly scrolling through a 13-page allocations handbook, according to the report.

"We will now proceed by looking over this," he said while scrolling through the handbook for roughly two seconds before all the pages could load. "Done. You are all dismissed."

Ching's orientation meeting lasted a total of 18 seconds.

"The OSLC was shocked with the gross negligence

demonstrated by Senator Ching's actions," the report states.

The report features depositions from three SA members regarding Ching's conduct, emails from student organization leaders expressing confusion about budget allocations and a memorandum from SA Vice President Yan Xu critiquing the finance committee.

Nathan Nguyen, the director of the SA's legislative budget office, said Ching ignored the SA's requirements for the timeline of the allocations process as part of his delay of the allocation application's launch. Nguyen said the deadline for student organization allocations typically falls on Oct. 31 but was pushed to Nov. 27 this year because Ching failed to open the application until early November – about two months later than normal.

Nguyen said Ching would hear senators' motions favorable toward granting funding for student organizations that contained several of his friends, like GWU Esports, during finance committee meetings. GW Engage

shows Ching is a member of GWU Esports.

SA Sen. Linsi Goodin, CCAS-G, Ching's vice chair on the finance committee and a self-described friend of Ching, accused him of showing favoritism toward student organizations during the financial allocations process by "silencing" motions he personally disliked, which violated senate decorum.

Xu sent a memorandum to senators Friday stating Ching has led a "haste process" in the finance committee that has created "barriers" to SA funding for student organizations. Xu said the finance committee failed to publish the schedule for spring student organization allocations and end the application period by their respective deadlines and announced an updated allocations schedule.

He said the finance committee did not advertise the general allocation orientation sessions, which are intended to educate students how to request SA funds.

Ching has arrived late or designated a proxy for four of the six full senate meetings this semester.

## Student groups collaborate to host Trans Awareness Week

**FAITH WARDWELL**  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

**NIKKI GHAEMI**  
CONTRIBUTING NEWS EDITOR

Nine student organizations collaborated with the University and local LGBTQ+ groups last week to host 12 social and educational events for Trans Awareness Week.

The events, spanning from Trans 101 educational sessions exploring transgender identities to a student open mic night in the University Student Center, concluded Sunday with Trans Day of Remembrance – an internationally recognized annual observance of lives lost to anti-transgender violence – hosted by five D.C. LGBTQ+ organizations in Freedom Plaza. Student leaders said the week's programming provided a space for transgender students to celebrate their own identity and for allies of the trans community to learn more about how to support transgender people and understand the transgender experience on a deeper level.

Trans Awareness Week kicked off last Thursday with an event hosted by GW Women in Business and the Business Pride Network, where the groups wrote letters to support the transgender community. Events like Pride Abroad – a presentation by the Office of Study Abroad and Out in IA – offered LGBTQ+ students an opportunity to learn about navigating their identity while adapting to new laws and social norms that may be critical of the LGBTQ+ community

while studying abroad in foreign countries.

The week also included social events like Late Night at the MSSC on Saturday, an event where community members played card games and had dinner, and Trans Day of Relaxation at the Multicultural Student Services Center on Friday, a space for students to destress and connect with the community after confronting difficult topics like violence against the LGBTQ+ community.

Senior Maya Younes, the president of Transgender and Non-Binary Students of GWU, said this year's programming was built on collaborations with other students organizations, like Allied in Pride and the Delta Lambda Phi fraternity, and events like tabling for transgender visibility and a tea party discussing hormone replacement and transition therapy. They said this year's events were similar to the organization's first year of Trans Awareness Week events in 2019.

They said by opening the week with joint event with student organizations, Trans Awareness Week encompassed broader student groups and represented the intersectional identities that many transgender people hold. These collaborations included a movie screening with GW Black Defiance of "Check It" – a film about a D.C. gang formed by Black, transgender youth to protect themselves from violence – and a panel with the Disabled Students Collective.

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## Students unable to vote in midterms after ballot delivery delays, mailbox issues

**GRACE CHINOWSKY**  
CONTRIBUTING NEWS EDITOR

**MAX PORTER**  
REPORTER

Ballot delivery delays, broken mailboxes and a lack of communication from GW Mail and Package Services riddled the voting process for more than 20 out-of-state students this fall, rendering many unable to vote via absentee ballot in the midterm elections earlier this month.

Despite ordering their ballots weeks in advance, two dozen students said they received theirs days before the election, after the election or never at all, leaving many with little time to cast their votes and mail their ballots back before state deadlines. The students said the University's MPS delays "suppressed" their ability to participate in this year's elections where 435 House of Representative, 35 Senate and 36 gubernatorial seats were up for grabs as young voters participated in record numbers in the last three decades of midterm elections.

University spokesperson Daniel Parra said MPS workers take a little more than a day to process USPS mail, and the University plans to add more electronic lockers to residence halls in the future with the goal of bringing students closer to their mail.

Parra declined to say why students may have experienced delays receiving or accessing their midterm ballots last week or how often employees distribute mail to students' mailboxes.

"Mail and packages are delivered to all residence halls (including lockers at Thurston, Shenkman and West Halls) five days a week," Parra said in an email. "On average, it takes 1.25 days to process mail delivered by USPS."

Four students said they never received their absentee ballots through University mail for this year's midterm election. Three said their state offices didn't count their votes because of issues related to MPS delays leading up to or beyond state absentee ballot deadlines, which range from the night of Election Day to 10 days later. Four students said they returned home to vote in person or to fill out a new mail ballot because of MPS delays.

"The right to vote can't be taken for granted, and we are thrilled that so many GW students start their lifelong civic journey as voters while here at GW," Amy Cohen, the executive director of the Nashman Center for Civic Engagement and Public Service, said in a Wednesday release about student engagement in this year's elections.

MPS receives all student mail and has locations on every GW campus, with their primary package center located at the mailroom in the lower level of the Support Building on F Street.

Dylan Weiss, a junior from New Jersey majoring in international affairs, said despite ordering his absentee ballot from the state about a month before Election Day, he did not receive it in time to meet his state's mail-in ballot deadline, which is six days



ALLISON ROBERTT | PHOTOGRAPHER

Four students said they never received their absentee ballots through University mail, and three students said their state offices didn't count their votes because MPS delivered ballots past state absentee ballot deadlines, leaving them unable to have their votes counted in this year's midterm election.

after the election. After receiving his ballot three days after Election Day, he found that its delivery date documentation showed USPS delivered it to GW about two and a half weeks earlier Oct. 24.

"GW had been in possession of it for a little over two weeks and just didn't put it in my mailbox until after the election," Weiss said.

Weiss said it was "messed up" that an institution in the center of D.C. could allow absentee ballot delays to occur past election deadlines, snuffing his voice out of the election.

Tess Romine, a freshman majoring in political communication, said her mother mailed her ballot from Florida to D.C. in October, but she received it just two days before Election Day,

which was too late for her vote to be counted because of Florida's mail-in deadline at 7 p.m. Nov. 8.

"It's embarrassing and incredibly frustrating," Romine said. "And of course, I didn't get the results that I wanted in Florida, and there is like a tiny part of me that's wondering, 'If me and maybe some of my other friends had gotten our ballots, would the results be different?'"



# GIVE BACK

TO INDEPENDENT STUDENT JOURNALISM  
THIS GIVING TUESDAY



# News

## THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

### NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE CELEBRATION MONTH PROGRAM

Monday, Nov. 21 | 6 p.m. EDT | Elliott School of International Affairs  
The Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion is hosting an event to celebrate Native American Heritage Month.

### BREAKING BREAD

Wednesday, Nov. 23 | 5 p.m. EDT | Multicultural Student Services Center  
The Office of Diversity, Equity and Community Engagement sponsors a discussion on social issues at GW and beyond over food.

## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Nov. 26, 1963

Out of respect for the memory of the late President John F. Kennedy, the University closed Monday, Nov. 25, a national day of mourning, The Hatchet reported.

# ANC commissioners announce unofficial election victories, propose grant for residents displaced by fire

**GRACE CHINOWSKY**  
CONTRIBUTING NEWS EDITOR

The chair of a local governing body congratulated four candidates on their unofficial wins in last week's elections during their monthly meeting Wednesday.

Foggy Bottom and West End Advisory Neighborhood Commission Chair Joel Causey congratulated Commissioners Trupti Patel, Yannik Omictin, Ed Comer, Evelyn Hudson and himself on their unofficial victories after they pulled ahead in their respective election counts, which the D.C. Board of Elections will finalize next month. Commissioners also proposed a grant for a St. Mary's Court resident who was displaced due to a building fire Tuesday and voted in support of two bills addressing local business recovery and affordable housing.

The D.C. Office of Planning also presented plans for a public life survey that will monitor pedestrian, bicycle and vehicle traffic in Foggy Bottom in the spring.

In case you missed it, here are a few of the meeting's highlights:

### ANC Chair Joel Causey announces commissioners' unofficial wins

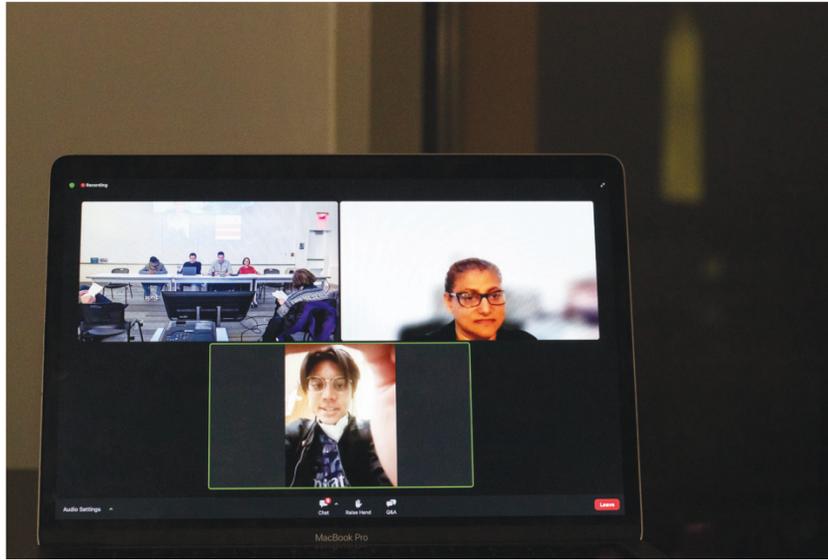
Causey congratulated commissioners on the unofficial election totals, but the DCBOE stopped collecting ballots on Tuesday and hasn't finalized ANC election results.

As of Sunday, Omictin and Nassar have garnered 69 and 96 percent of their votes, respectively, while Comer has received 67 percent of the vote. Malec has garnered 361 votes, netting about 96 percent of the SMD's vote share, while Patel received 299 votes and about 90 percent of the total vote share, according to the DCBOE.

Omictin of 2A01 and Jordan Nassar of 2A08 declared their unofficial victories on Twitter last week.

Causey, who currently represents the Single Member District 2A02, the area spanning the uppermost Northwest quadrant of West End, said he won as an unopposed write-in candidate for 2A06, the SMD representing the northeastern side of West End and properties like Yours Truly and the Ritz-Carlton. Commissioner Jeri Epstein confirmed she would be stepping down as 2A06 commissioner in the next term upon Causey's announcement.

"I do know the results of the write-ins," Causey said. "I can tell you mine and Commissioner Hudson's,



AUDEN YURMAN | SENIOR PHOTO EDITOR  
ANC Chair Joel Causey congratulated Commissioners Trupti Patel, Yannik Omictin, Ed Comer, Evelyn Hudson and himself on their unofficial victories after they pulled ahead in their respective election counts, which the D.C. Board of Elections will finalize next month.

and that's all I know. I can't tell you how many write-ins there were, I can just tell you that in the seven-day period to file, no one filed in our SMDs."

Commissioner Adam Friend of 2A07, who ran for reelection as a write-in candidate, initially said he did not know the results of the write-in races upon a constituent inquiry about the ANC representatives for the next term. He later announced he would not be returning to the ANC next year, making it likely challenger Dasia Bandy, a junior, will assume his 2A07 seat in January after receiving about 93 percent of the tallied vote Sunday.

### Commissioners vote to create grant for displaced St. Mary's Court fire victim

Commissioners unanimously voted to allocate \$10,000 of their budget reserves toward a grant application process aiding residents of a senior living home after a fire in the apartment building caused "catastrophic" damage, injuring and displacing several residents Wednesday afternoon.

Friend said the grant would replace damaged or destroyed belongings in residents' units in St. Mary's Court or other costs associated with their temporary displacement. He said the grant will provide some relief for the building's senior residents, many of whom may be living on a fixed or low income.

"To have that disaster happen where everything in your apartment is gone, it would be hard to come back from," Friend said.

D.C. Fire and Emergency

Medical Service responders evacuated residents from St. Mary's Court after a fire broke out from an unknown source on the second floor of the eight-story building Tuesday morning.

Officials said during Wednesday's meeting there were at least six injuries and more than 10 residents displaced after the incident. They also reported water damage in eight units and smoke damage in many others, while one unit remains uninhabitable due to fire damage.

Julius Terry, a liaison for the Executive Office of the Mayor, said to the commissioners that officials at Medstar and GW Hospital have discharged most of the injured residents sent for evaluation and that 10 residents were displaced because of a power outage on their floor can return starting Thursday. He said the man that lived in the uninhabitable unit is now staying in a hotel where he is receiving support from organizations like the Red Cross, D.C. Department of Human Services and the Office of Tenant Advocacy.

"In this case, the fire was contained to one unit, unit 214, but there's water damage combined with the smoke damage," Terry said. "It hit the electric at one point, so there's a few different issues."

Terry said officials are operating the elevator again, have replaced smoke detectors and installed a new generator in the building. He said it will take officials two weeks to address water damage and complete fire restoration and that the OTA provides hotel stays for displaced tenants for up to 14 days while building managers and property managers arrange other living ar-

rangements.

The ANC will host a special meeting on Nov. 30 at 6 p.m. to discuss the requirements of the grant application, like the public purpose and local benefit of the fund.

### Commissioners pass resolutions supporting economic recovery and affordable housing bills

Commissioners unanimously voted in favor of the Rediscover Equitable Central Occupancy Vitality and Encourage Resilient Yield Amendment Act of 2021, a bill At-Large Council member Christina Henderson and Ward 2 Council member Brooke Pinto cosigned. Patel, who introduced the resolutions, said the bill is a "targeted investment" to incentivize housing and office conversions in Ward 2 and directed toward businesses in the Golden Triangle and Central Business District to prevent them from going into "atrophy."

"We sadly know since COVID-19 has happened, downtown has become a ghost town," Patel said. "Restaurants and hotels are not getting the kind of clientele and traffic that they used to." Patel said the bill asks for ways to redevelop and reutilize space within Ward 2 to strengthen businesses and bring more people to the area.

Commissioners also unanimously voted in support of the Green New Deal for Housing Amendment Act of 2022, legislation Ward 4 Council member Janeese Lewis George proposed that will establish a D.C. office of social housing and convert existing properties into city-owned "social housing units" for residents in the District.

## CRIME LOG

### BLACKMAIL

District House  
11/13/2022 – 4:57 p.m.  
Open Case  
A male student reported being blackmailed by an unknown female subject he met through a dating app who threatened to expose photos of him that they had exchanged.  
**Case open.**

### THEFT II/FROM BUILDING, CREDIT CARD FRAUD

Off Campus  
11/14/2022 – 3:00 p.m.  
Closed Case  
A male student reported their property stolen from an off-campus gym, resulting in unauthorized purchases to their debit and credit card.  
**Referred to the Metropolitan Police Department.**

### SIMPLE ASSAULT

Public Property on Campus (2100 Block of F Street)  
11/16/2022 – 8:00 p.m.  
Open Case  
A male student reported being punched in the face by a non-GW affiliated unknown male subject while walking down the street.  
**Case open.**

### SIMPLE ASSAULT

Public Property on Campus (2100 Block of F Street)  
11/16/2022 – 8:01 p.m.  
Open Case  
The same male student reported being struck by an unknown object by the same non-GW affiliated unknown male subject.  
**Case open.**

### THEFT II/FROM BUILDING

Mitchell Hall (7-Eleven Store)  
11/16/2022 – 9:25 p.m.  
Closed Case  
GWPD officers responded to reports of a non-GW affiliated male subject who stole a bag of chips from 7-Eleven and fled the scene.  
**No identifiable subject.**

### HARASSMENT: EMAIL AND ELECTRONIC MEDIA

Lisner Hall  
11/17/2022 – Multiple  
Closed Case  
A female staff member reported being harassed via personal and University-related social media by an unfamiliar male subject.  
**Case open.**

### SIMPLE ASSAULT

Public Property on Campus  
11/17/2022 – 2:00 p.m.  
Open Case  
An unknown subject reportedly pushed a female student while walking near the Foggy Bottom-GWU Metro station.  
**Case open.**

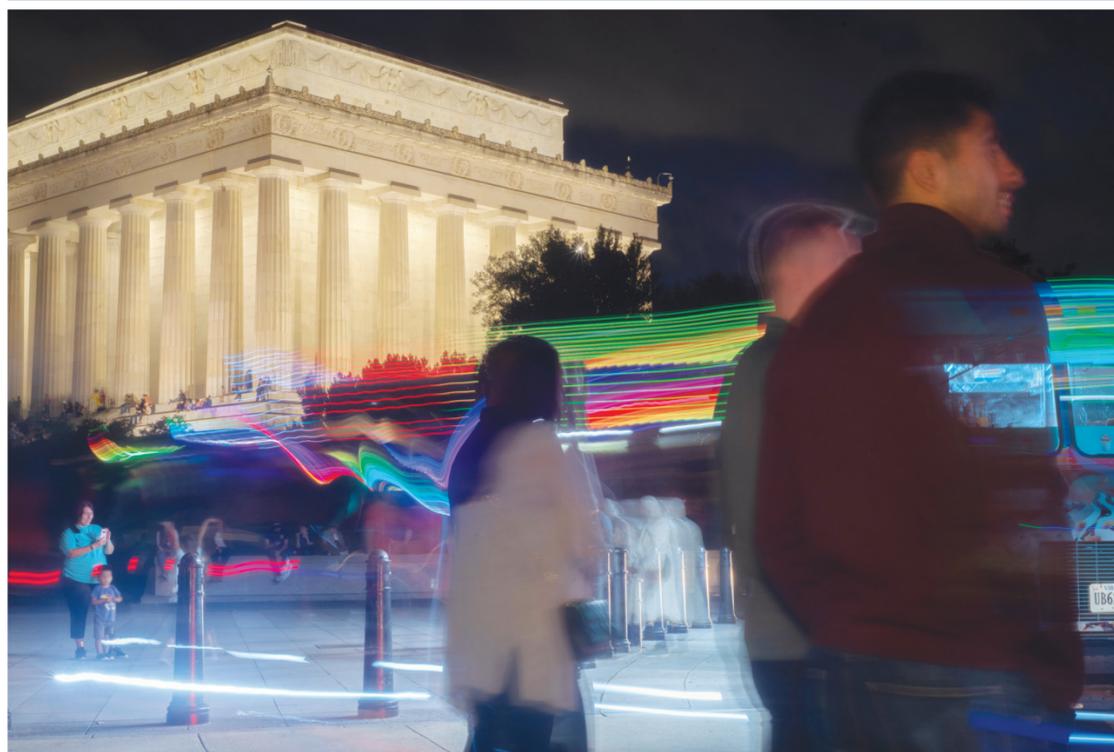
### UNLAWFUL ENTRY

Ross Hall (Courtyard)  
11/18/2022 – 1:35 a.m.  
Closed Case  
GWPD officers responded to a report of a previously barred male subject sleeping in the Ross Hall courtyard. Officers barred the subject again and sent him on his way.  
**Subject barred.**

— Compiled by Grace Chinowsky

## SNAPSHOT

DANIELLE TOWERS | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR



In an unusually warm start to November, a group gathers around an ice cream truck by the Lincoln Memorial Saturday as a streak of hoverboard riders speed by, leaving a rainbow of light marking their path.

## TWEETED

### YUTA THE SHOOTA

Brooklyn Nets  
on 11/20/2022

TWITTER/@BROOKLYNNETS

# GW introducing first-ever Filipino American history course this spring

**IANNE SALVOSA**  
CONTRIBUTING NEWS EDITOR

The American Studies department will offer its first-ever course on Filipino American history in the spring, chronicling the immigration of the fourth-largest immigrant group in the United States.

Filipinx American History will be the only course on Filipino migration and the establishment of Filipino culture in the United States out of all D.C. universities in the spring semester, according to a Hatchet analysis of course schedules from universities in the District. Filipino students interested in taking the class said the course can help showcase the experiences of the “large” Filipino community in D.C. and more than a century of history of Filipino students at GW, when University curricula in the East Asian region tend to stick to country-specific courses.

Theo Gonzalves, a professorial lecturer of American Studies and the instructor of the course, said he approached Thomas Guglielmo, the chair of the American Studies department, about teaching a course focused on Filipinos in the United States last academic year after teaching an American studies course

on the U.S. empire in the Philippines and Hawaii in fall 2020. Gonzalves said the course will feature texts on the migration of Filipino nurses to the United States and “artistic endeavors” from Filipino artists like Ruby Ibarra to teach students about Philippine history before Spanish colonization and Filipino settlement in the 16th century.

“It also leaves the question wide open about what’s next,” Gonzalves said. “How do people think about these identities and these topics for the present moment? It’s as much about the present as much as it is about history.”

He said history often receives a “bad reputation” because many Americans treat it as a recitation of facts disconnected from their daily lives, but cultural history including Filipino Americans’ stories is “alive” and intertwines across cultures. He said the course will cover Filipino laborers in California in relation to other migrant labor groups in California, like Latino migrants, and their joint efforts to protest for better working conditions.

The Philippines and other countries that Spain colonized share similar traditions, like the Filipino celebration of Undas and the

Mexican celebration of Día de los Muertos, which both honor loved ones that have passed away. Filipino culture celebrates Christmas on the night of Christmas Eve with a holiday called Nochebuena, similar to traditions among Hispanic and Latino groups.

“If it comes down to the recitation of facts, then it really just becomes a trivia contest, and I’m not engaged in a game show,” Gonzalves said. “These stories represent the ways that we are actually connected to each other.”

The three-credit course currently has 11 students enrolled and can count as an elective for the American Studies major, according to the GW bulletin.

Gonzalves said Filipino Americans have many questions about their history in the United States because many universities across the nation do not have courses dedicated to the topic, despite the “large” Filipino population in the DMV.

“There’s going to be someone else in your family, in your circle, they may not have heard about some of the things we’ll be talking about,” Gonzalves said. “It’s up to everyone to take that knowledge and share.”

Liaa Fernandez – a junior international affairs



JORDAN TOVIN | PHOTOGRAPHER

Theo Gonzalves, a professorial lecturer of American studies and the instructor of Filipinx American History, said the class will teach Philippine history before Spanish colonization and Filipino settlement in the United States in the 16th century.

major and the political advocacy and external relations director of the GW Philippine Cultural Society, who is interested in taking the course – said she immigrated from Manila, Philippines to the United States in 2010 but did not learn about Filipino American history until she started college. She said she gained more time to independently research topics she is interested in, like the United Farmworkers Movement, a protest in

the 1960s for better labor laws in California that Filipino and Latino farmworkers led.

“We all kind of had to focus on surviving the brunt of American capitalism,” Fernandez said.

She said she is minoring in Asian American studies but has not learned about Filipino immigration in her courses, even though Filipino students have attended GW for more than 100 years and are one of the largest

migrant groups in the U.S.

The first Filipino students began their studies at GW in 1903 after the U.S. government enacted the Pensionado Act, which offered fellowships for Filipinos to study in the United States, according to the fall 2007 issue of GW Magazine.

“I didn’t know that my name can be added to this ongoing narrative of our peoples’ history and experiences here in the states,” Fernandez said.

## More than a fifth of students rejected federal loans last school year: report

**IANNE SALVOSA**  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

**JACKSON RICKERT**  
REPORTER

Officials said more than a fifth of all students rejected federal loans during the last academic year after reassessing their budgets.

Officials reported that 55 percent of students received federal loan offers during the 2021-22 academic year, but only 32 percent accepted while 23 percent rejected them, which experts attribute to common accessibility to alternate forms of tuition payment, like financial support from parents. The shortage of federal loan acceptance coincides with a national undergraduate borrowing rate that has decreased by 49 percent between the 2011-12 academic year to the 2021-22 academic year, according to an October College Board report on higher education pricing and student aid.

GW’s federal loan acceptance rate dips below the roughly 60 percent student loan acceptance rate among undergraduate students at private universities nationwide, according to National Center for Education Statistics data.

University spokesperson Josh Grossman said when incoming students choose to attend GW, they can review their financial aid offers with the Office of Student Financial Assistance for help making “responsible” borrowing decisions.

“Some students are receiving support from their parents or other family members and may not need to utilize the loans offered,” Grossman said in an email.

President Joe Biden announced a student loan forgiveness plan in October that would cancel up to \$10,000 of federal loans for

students or families who make under \$125,000 annually and up to \$20,000 for students who receive Pell Grants. A federal appeals court temporarily blocked the plan last week, but the Biden administration asked the Supreme Court to lift the block on the debt relief plan Friday.

Experts in higher education and finance said students at private universities tend to reject federal loans because they do not need the financial support or want to steer away from mounting debt, and those who take out private loans may be “stuck” in high-interest loan repayment programs after graduation. They said the federal government should reduce the number of payment plan options to streamline the loan repayment process for prospective students, who have been finding other ways, like military enlistment, to finance their education without debt accumulation.

Jennifer Delaney – an associate professor of education policy, organization and leadership at the University of Illinois – said federal loan rejection among students at expensive private universities like GW is “not uncommon” because students are often able to finance their education through alternate means, like their parents, to avoid piling debt.

The median parental income of GW students is \$182,000, according to an Equality of Opportunity Project study.

She said the federal government offers five income-based repayment plans for federal loans, like the Pay As You Earn Repayment Plan, which requires borrowers to pay about 10 percent of their discretionary income. She said the government could simplify the loan repayment process and condense the

five income-based repayment plans to one option so borrowers wouldn’t have to choose between different plans.

“We just need students to be really savvy consumers to do the math to figure out what is going to be the overall cost,” Delaney said.

She said private loans are “worse” than federal loans for student borrowers because they tend to have higher interest rates than federal loans and require a co-signer, which is another person responsible for loan repayment if the borrower cannot make payments. She said not all private lenders have a “safety net” for loan repayment like federal repayment programs, some of which do not require payments from borrowers if their income decreases.

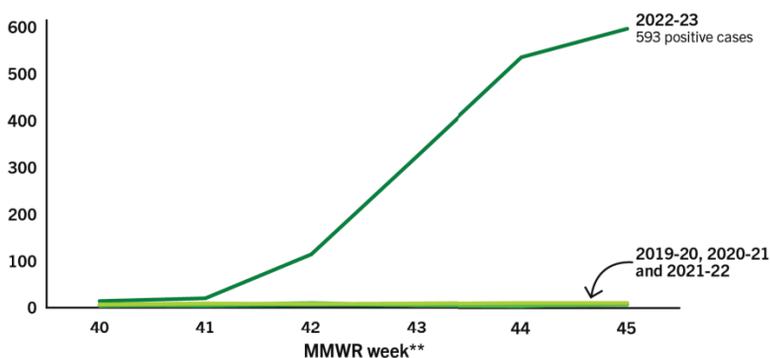
“A lot of students are getting stuck and borrowers are getting stuck to where they have loans they need to work with a servicer, and they don’t often get the best advice about what’s best for them as a borrower in terms of managing their student debt,” Delaney said.

Thomas Harnisch, the vice president for government relations of the State Higher Education Executive Officers Association, said GW’s low acceptance rate of federal loans is due to the University’s status as a private university, which tends to have a higher cost of attendance than public universities without government subsidies. He said GW’s higher cost of attendance could lead to a higher total of potential debt for student borrowers.

Officials announced that GW’s estimated cost of attendance will surpass \$80,000 this academic year.

“With that higher price, that leads to more, in most cases, to great reliance on debt financing,” Harnisch said.

Number of influenza cases in D.C. by season\*



\*In 2022, week 40 ended Oct. 8 and week 45 ended Nov. 12  
\*\*Breakdown of flu cases in CDC’s Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report  
Source: DC Health

NICHOLAS ANASTACIO | GRAPHICS EDITOR

## Flu, RSV cases spike as health officials warn of severe illness

**CRISTINA STASSIS**  
STAFF WRITER

Experts project that an early start to the flu season and an increase in cases of respiratory syncytial virus, or RSV, will strain hospitals’ capacity this winter.

DC Health recorded 593 positive flu cases from Oct. 16 through last Saturday, a massive reporting increase from the 29 combined cases tallied over the same time period in the last seven years, according to the agency’s influenza surveillance dashboard. Experts in flu and RSV research said the drop in health precautions like masking, social distancing and hand washing and the reopening of public spaces during the past year has spurred the rise of flu and RSV cases, which could drain resources and limit available beds for patients this winter.

“Flu and RSV are not reportable diseases, however, our syndromic surveillance illustrates the numbers have peaked faster and sooner compared to other seasons,” a DC Health spokesperson said in an email.

The seasonal flu and RSV are not reportable diseases because not everyone who shows symptoms gets tested or treated by medical care, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

RSV causes mild, cold-like symptoms in young children and older adults, which can lead to bronchiolitis and pneumonia, according to the CDC. RSV season typically starts in the fall and lasts until the spring months, according to the Mayo Clinic.

The DC Health spokesperson said the increase in RSV cases is partly due to the relaxation of COVID-19 precautions like masking and social distancing, precautions that helped limit the rates of RSV and flu during the pandemic. The spokesperson said health department officials meet

with schools and universities to “encourage” their communities to receive flu vaccines, wear masks and tell people to stay home if they are sick to prevent the spread of RSV and flu.

Rebekka Christie, the medical director of GW’s Student Health Center, said SHC officials started to notice a rise in flu cases on campus in October and have recorded about a dozen flu cases since Oct. 16. She said the SHC has not yet recorded any RSV cases on campus.

Christie said the SHC started offering flu vaccines at “large-scale clinics” in the University Student Center to students and faculty in early September and will continue to provide vaccines throughout the rest of the month. She said the SHC will offer vaccines in February and March 2023.

She declined to comment on how the rates of flu vaccine distribution this fall compares to previous years.

“The protocols in place for COVID also serve to limit the spread of the flu,” Christie said in an email.

Pediatricians in the District and nationwide have reported a spike in positive cases of respiratory illnesses as they prepare for flu season, according to a Washington Post report. Pediatric units of hospitals in and near D.C. were nearing full capacity last month, meaning some patients might be treated in the emergency department instead of the pediatric unit, which could eliminate specialized care they would otherwise receive.

More than 90 percent of emergency department visits for newborns under the age of four are for RSV-related illnesses in D.C., according to data from DC Health.

Experts in flu and RSV research said preventative COVID measures also decreased the rates of other respiratory diseases, but a relaxation of those policies this year has led to the first

resurgence in cases of the flu and RSV.

Shyam Mohapatra, the director of the Division of Translational Medicine at the Department of Internal Medicine at the University of South Florida, said RSV presents itself as a common cold for most age groups, but infants are the most susceptible to infection of RSV and the elderly are also extra vulnerable. He said infants and the elderly were mostly not exposed to RSV because of closures and limited public activity during the pandemic, but RSV and flu cases have taken a sharp increase since these shutdowns have worn away.

“We don’t hear so much about elderly because the kids are more prone to get this infection and elderly are probably still keeping their masks and kids don’t,” Mohapatra. “That’s why we’re seeing more infants and kids rather than elderly.”

Scientists have not developed a vaccine for RSV, but health care workers give premature newborns with heart and lung conditions palivizumab as a prevention method for RSV.

Michael Teng, an associate professor of medicine at University of South Florida, said the 2022 RSV season started during the summer, spreading through Florida, the Midwest and the mid-Atlantic, although typically a winter illness.

Pediatric hospitals around the country started reporting positive cases of RSV this summer in states like Texas and California, according to an NPR in August.

“I think the question that we don’t really know is that now that we started on this kind of unusual epidemiology of RSV work, we’ve had a summer wave, and now we’re having kind of early, late fall, early winter wave,” Teng said. “But what we can see is RSV sometime next year, kind of making up for the fact that we didn’t have that RSV season last year.”



FILE PHOTO BY LILY SPEREDELOZZI | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The number of undergraduate students taking out federal loans decreased by 49 percent between the 2011-12 and 2021-22 academic years nationwide, according to an October College Board report.

# Sunrise GW stages 12-hour sit-in at RSC, calling for ban on fossil fuel funding

**FAITH WARDWELL**  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Sunrise GW protesters staged a 12-hour sit-in at the Regulatory Studies Center last Monday to protest the RSC's 12 years of operations and call on RSC officials to cut ties with the fossil fuel industry.

Nine protesters occupied an RSC suite – a GW academic center researching regulatory policy located on the sixth floor of the Media and Public Affairs building and a common target of Sunrise criticism – from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. demanding a ban on fossil fuel funding accepted by the RSC. The protest is Sunrise's most recent action targeting the RSC's ties to the fossil fuel industry, following a mock funeral blocking the intersection of 21st and H streets in October outside of the RSC offices and protesters disrupting an RSC anniversary event in 2020.

Senior Jake Lowe, a member of Sunrise and a coordinator of the international coalition Fossil Free Research, said Monday's protest was a part of Fossil Free Research's Days of Action in which students across the U.S., U.K. and Canada took part in protests to demand a ban on fossil fuel research money accepted by their own institu-

tions and universities.

Lowe said Sunrise has been leading its campaign calling on the RSC to reject funding from fossil fuel industry institutions like ExxonMobil and the Charles Koch Foundation for about two years. He said money the RSC accepts from fossil fuel industry corporations causes bias in the center's research, ultimately providing studies that favor its beneficiaries.

"When you look at the research they actually produce, it's very clear that they're acting on account of their funders to promote climate disinformation and deregulation, and that's just not something that we think GW should facilitate," Lowe said. "We don't think GW's name should go on that kind of work, and it makes us ashamed to go to school here."

Lowe said he wrote and released a report on the RSC about a year ago with nationwide climate campaign UnKoch My Campus, which stated that the RSC receives funding from actors with histories of climate disinformation and obstruction of climate action.

Watchdog organization Public Citizen accused the RSC in 2019 of political bias and promoting an anti-regulatory political agenda in its

research. The report stated key funders like the Charles Koch Foundation and ExxonMobil donated more than \$1 billion to the center.

"We won't stop campaigning against the Regulatory Studies Center until they reject funding from the fossil fuel industry and allied interests," Lowe said.

In the first hours of the sit-in, RSC and Students Rights & Responsibilities staff as well as GW Police Department officers asked protesters to avoid causing a disturbance for workers remaining in the office space and asked them not to block office exits within the suite.

GWPD officers initially told Sunrise protesters that they wouldn't be permitted to stay in the RSC office space past 10 p.m. when the building closes to the public, but officers eventually agreed to allow Sunrise to occupy the area up until their 12-hour marker at 11 p.m. as long as they remained peaceful. Protesters passed the time by giving speeches about the RSC's ties to the fossil fuel industry on a Facebook livestream, eating snacks, playing cards and playing live music on instruments.

Joe Cordes, the co-director of the RSC, said while RSC officials understand students' passion for climate



JENNIFER IGBONOBA | PHOTOGRAPHER

Protesters passed the time by giving speeches about the RSC's ties to the fossil fuel industry on a Facebook livestream, eating snacks, playing cards and playing live music on instruments.

justice, they recognize Sunrise's protests as a violation of GW's policies regarding academic freedom. He said he believes protesters were "mistaken" in their criticisms of the RSC Monday, citing a 2021 statement on the RSC's mission and a 2020 RSC fact sheet providing details on the sources of the center's funding.

"They violated the student code which prohibits

actions that are 'disruptive of normal University functions [or that] encompass the physical takeover or occupation of university facilities and spaces, whether or not they are in use at that time,'" Cordes said in an email. "We learn from respectful discourse, not threats, disruption and intimidation."

Sophomore Keigan McCullagh, Sunrise's communications director, said the

group talked to Students Rights and Responsibilities staff during the sit-in about the possibility of disciplinary action following the protest, but they said it's unclear what repercussions Sunrise protesters may face until the group meets with SRR officials about the case. They said despite possible disciplinary action, Sunrise doesn't intend to put its campaign on hold.

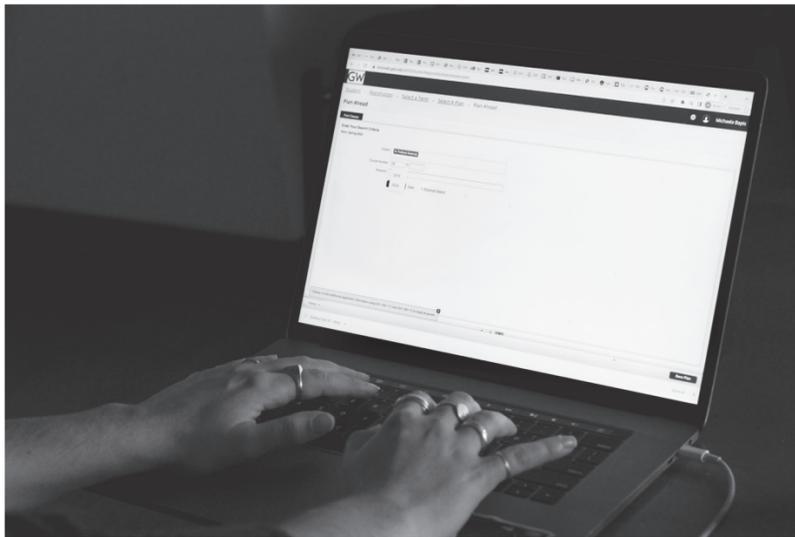


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY AUDEN YURMAN | SENIOR PHOTO EDITOR

Students who used the feature said it eased and accelerated course registration because they no longer had to add their courses one by one while registering.

## 'Plan Ahead' tool simplified spring course registration process: students

**CAITLIN KITSON**  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

**EÓGHAN NOONAN**  
STAFF WRITER

Students registered for spring courses with a recently added GWeb feature, allowing them to instantly register for courses from a pre-planned schedule to expedite the sign-up process last week.

Interim University Registrar Katie Cloud said the "Plan Ahead" feature – which launched on GWeb in June 2022 ahead of freshman registration in August – allows students to create up to five schedules ahead of course registration and register for all of the courses in their pre-planned schedule at once by selecting "Add All" in the "Plans" section on GWeb. Students who used the feature said it eased and accelerated course registration because they no longer had to select their courses one by one while registering, but officials should still make improvements to GWeb, like modernizing the site's layout.

"Plan Ahead was launched as a tool with the student experience in mind in order to provide an opportunity to plan upcoming course schedule options as students meet with their advisors in advance of registration," Cloud said in an email.

In 2020, officials said they would focus on making improvements to GWeb, like creating an updated version of DegreeMAP, moving away from 2018 plans to replace GWeb entirely after the system's vendor, Ellucian Banner, announced it would no longer update the software.

More than 10 students who used the feature said registering directly from a pre-planned schedule made course registration faster and less stressful, but

GWeb is still an "outdated" platform in need of further remodeling, like an updated site that can handle more user traffic.

Theodora Greco, a sophomore majoring in international affairs, said using the feature to register for spring 2023 courses reduced the time she spent registering because she no longer had to type in each course reference number one by one while registering.

"For the past semesters, I've had to type in the CRNs one by one, and I get anxious and flustered and I feel like I make mistakes while typing," she said. "But this time I had everything planned out, so it was very easy to quickly register for classes."

Greco said in past semesters, GWeb would crash and log her out of her account, keeping her from securing spots in courses that filled up quickly.

"I feel like I was always behind and then others would get the spots that I wanted," she said. "It definitely took a lot longer to register for classes, which put me at a disadvantage."

Ryan McGowan, a sophomore majoring in international affairs, said registering for spring 2023 courses took him "seconds" because he submitted his pre-planned schedule immediately through the "Plan Ahead" feature. He said in past semesters, the high volume of students who register at any given time seemed to slow down the website and make the registration process more difficult.

Undergraduate course registration is split up over the course of five days, where students who have earned 90 or more credits all register on the first day and students who have earned zero to 29 credits all register on the last day.

"I think they need a better system than just everyone goes on at the same time and goes as fast as they

can because even though it's split up over five days – I mean, I have problems with it all the time, but maybe that's because I don't plan ahead – but I think it makes it difficult when you have so many people going on," he said.

McGowan said while class registration can be difficult, GWeb provides services, like DegreeMAP, that officials could enhance by making the website's layout look more modern.

"I love using DegreeMAP and all that stuff and seeing your transcripts," he said. "I think it's easy, but I think the system is kind of outdated and could use updates."

Remi Rivard, a sophomore majoring in marketing, said class registration could become a simpler process for many students in the future if GW increased its promotion of the "Plan Ahead" feature to the student body.

The Office of the Registrar sent an email to undergraduate students earlier this month with tips on managing the course registration process, including an announcement of the "Plan Ahead" feature.

"If they got more people to know about this 'Plan' feature, that could be really helpful because I only found out from my roommate because I don't really read GW's emails as often," she said.

Angelica Rojas, a sophomore majoring in nutrition, said beyond the "Plan Ahead" feature, officials should set spots in every course aside for students who need to take the course to fulfill a requirement for their major to further improve course registration.

"I think if they did something where you can make sure you're getting your required classes out of the way, that could really help," she said.

## GroW Garden delivers produce to Miriam's Kitchen for unhoused locals

**CRISTINA STASSIS**  
STAFF WRITER

**DUC THAN**  
REPORTER

For more than a decade, student-volunteers at the GroW Community Garden have harvested hundreds of pounds of fresh produce each year to feed unhoused D.C. residents at Miriam's Kitchen, a nonprofit organization located inside Western Presbyterian Church on Virginia Avenue.

They grow more than 500 pounds of vegetables each year from a skinny plot of land on H Street between 23rd and 24th streets and deliver produce twice a week, year-round to guests at Miriam's Kitchen, which provides services like housing subsidy vouchers and a case manager for about 216 previously and currently unhoused individuals. Student volunteers and Miriam's Kitchen staff said the 13-year partnership has allowed neighbors and students to serve their vulnerable community members while connecting over their love of fresh food.

Kimberly Williams, a stakeholder engagement associate in the Office of Sustainability, said GroW Garden student managers – who oversee community service efforts at the garden – plant certain crops upon request to tailor their harvest to the needs of Miriam's Kitchen.

"If there is a particular vegetable that is most popular with guests, Miriam's Kitchen chefs will share that information with the GroW Garden managers, who will do their best to maximize the volume that is grown and donated," Williams said.

Miriam's Kitchen works with community partners like Capital Area Food Bank, farmer's markets, grocery stores, restaurant suppliers and union market artisans

to provide healthy five- to six-item meals twice a day to Miriam's Kitchen guests. The kitchen provides breakfast from 7 to 8 a.m. and dinner from 4 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday no matter the weather conditions or time of year.

Marcus May, the executive sous chef at Miriam's Kitchen, said the relationship between Miriam's Kitchen and GroW Garden has been "fantastic" and "indefinite" with volunteers meeting staff at the kitchen before determining which fruits and vegetables to grow next.

"They grow tomatoes, peppers, squash, zucchini, greens, herbs," May said. "It's been pretty consistent with that stuff over the past four years."

May said Miriam's Kitchen meets with volunteers and managers to discuss how often to harvest their produce to ensure the garden is providing the freshest food. He said the students at the GroW Garden inspire him through their dedication to their work.

"As long as Miriam's Kitchen is there, GroW Garden is going to be a part of what we do," May said. "I mean, the students love what they do, we love getting produce from them and it is a perfect match. So I don't see anything stopping that any time soon."

Raneem Atiyeh, one of the co-managers of the GroW Garden and a senior majoring in international affairs, said a "well-rounded" relationship thrives between GroW Garden, Miriam's Kitchen and the Western Presbyterian Church because members from the church and kitchen will help harvest at the garden while students will volunteer at Miriam's Kitchen's events.

"Our volunteers are the backbone of the work we do, and we love being able to build this sense of community on campus," Atiyeh

said.

She said the partnership between the GroW Garden and Miriam's Kitchen serves as a sustainable, local food system rather than the commonly practiced factory farming that can "deplete" the earth and its nutrients. The World Wildlife Fund reported that nearly half of nutrient-rich topsoil has been depleted in the last 150 years because of conventional mass farming techniques like intensive tilling, lack of cover crops, synthetic fertilizers and pesticide use.

Atiyeh said when managers harvest a surplus of fruits and vegetables, they occasionally donate produce to other meal centers. She said she enjoys building community on campus through student collaboration at the garden, and anyone who wishes to get more involved can do so simply by showing up.

"Sometimes people will just pass us in the street and be like, 'Oh, how do I become part of this?'" Atiyeh said. "Then we'll be like, 'You can just cross the fence right now and join us.'"

Nick Smaldone, the other co-manager at the GroW Garden who is studying international environmental studies and English, said the garden is "sustainable" because volunteers and managers don't use chemicals, fertilizers or modified seeds to grow food. He said the garden does not source seeds from "agribusinesses" – large agricultural enterprises that sell products like fertilizer, pesticide, food distribution and farming equipment to consumers.

Smaldone said currently or previously unhoused individuals who rely on the kitchen's food volunteer in the garden, which is an inspirational part of working with Miriam's Kitchen. He said student volunteers and Miriam's Kitchen workers exchange sustainable community practices.



LILY SPEREDELOZZI | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Student volunteers and Miriam's Kitchen staff said the 13-year partnership has allowed neighbors and students to serve their vulnerable community members while connecting over their love of fresh food.

# American Bar Association panel votes to drop LSAT requirement

**ERIKA FILTER**  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

An American Bar Association panel voted to drop the requirement that law school applicants take the Law School Admissions Test and other standardized tests Friday.

The panel voted 15-1 to remove the requirement that law school applicants submit students' standardized test results like the commonly used LSAT and Graduate Record Examinations in their applications. If implemented, individual law schools could decide whether or not they keep the testing requirement, which could go into place in the fall 2025.

The ABA's House of Delegates now must vote to codify the dropped requirement, but the body vetoed a similar rule change in 2018.

"In the grand scheme of things, folks of color perform less well on the LSAT than not, and for that reason, I think we are headed in the right direction," Leo Martinez, an ABA council member and dean emeritus

at the University of California, Hastings College of the Law, said at the meeting. "I am sympathetic that it gives people like me a chance."

GW Law currently requires an LSAT, GRE or GMAT scores from applicants. GW launched a free LSAT preparation program in June 2021.

Last year, the ABA allowed law schools to accept the Graduate Record Examination instead of the LSAT.

ABA member and dean of Syracuse University College of Law, said arguments that testing requirements are "necessary to save diversity in legal education" are "bizarre."

Yale and Harvard law schools announced Wednesday that they were withdrawing from the U.S. News and World Report rankings because the methodology did not acknowledge schools' efforts to recruit and support poor and working-class students.

Officials are yet to announce if GW Law will join other law schools in recusing themselves from the national

rankings.

Heather Gerken, dean of Yale Law School, said in a statement the rankings are "profoundly flawed." She said the rankings exclude loan forgiveness for public interest law programs, which Yale specializes in.

"We have reached a point where the rankings process is undermining the core commitments of the legal profession," she said. "As a result, we will no longer participate."

Gerken said the ranking system has made it difficult for law schools to support students with financial need. She said the rankings system is "counterproductive" to Yale's mission.

"The people most harmed by this ill-conceived system are applicants who aspire to public service work and those from low-income backgrounds," she said. "They're trying to make a sensible choice about their future, and law schools want to do right by them."

John Manning, dean of Harvard Law School, said in his statement U.S. News and



FILE PHOTO BY JORDAN YEE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Last year, the ABA allowed law schools to accept the Graduate Record Examination instead of the LSAT.

World Report's emphasis on test scores encourages law schools to prioritize merit-based aid over need-based aid.

"For these and other reasons, we will no longer participate in the U.S. News

process," he said. "It does not advance the best ideals of legal education or the profession we serve, and it contradicts the deeply held commitments of Harvard Law School."

Stanford, Georgetown,

Columbia and Berkeley law schools have all followed this move and withdrawn from the rankings. GW Law is currently tied at No. 25 with the Universities of Alabama and Notre Dame in the U.S. News and World Report rankings.



DANIELLE TOWERS | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR  
Edberg said the program will assess how high levels of gun violence disproportionately affect youth in communities that face high levels of poverty, structural racism and discrimination.

## Professor launches program investigating effects of gun violence on youth in D.C.

**ANNA ZELL**  
REPORTER

**MAX JACKSON**  
REPORTER

The National Institutes of Health awarded a public health professor a grant earlier this month to conduct an intervention project to analyze the health of youth in communities with high gun violence rates in D.C.

Mark Edberg, the principal investigator on the project, said the program is a collaboration with D.C. community groups and offices focused on ending gun violence including the DC Housing Authority, the Office on Gun Violence Prevention, the D.C. Attorney General and others. He said the program will assess how high levels of gun violence disproportionately affect youth in communities that face high levels of poverty, structural racism and discrimination.

The number of crimes involving guns rose in D.C. during the first six months of 2022 by 221 compared to numbers from the same time last year, according to Metropolitan Police Department data.

Edberg, a professor in the department of community health and prevention in the Milken Institute School of Public Health, said measuring how youth in the community perceive the people who commit violence will allow researchers to analyze who teenagers choose to look up to in their community that experience high levels of gun violence.

"This is where we start connecting those factors of long-term

poverty, structural racism, discrimination and so on and so forth," Edberg said. "What we are doing is somewhat unusual, because we are connecting communities that have experienced those things over generations, with the adolescent identity development process."

Edberg said the qualifications of the grant are based on President Joe Biden's Violence Prevention Initiative strategy – introduced in 2021 to control the number of illegal firearms entering communities and investing in community intervention programs – but the NIH delivered the grant. He said the NIH awarded three research grants for gun violence intervention at universities around the country and a coordinating center at the University of Michigan, which is partnering with GW.

Edberg said data sample collections will rely on surveying changes in attitudes to violence and trends in self-reported involvement in violence. He said his team will also track changes in identity development among adolescents, like shifts in self-worth or perceived potential for success and provide after-school mentoring programs to "connect" kids with career paths that don't involve violence.

"There's a lot of data out there showing that this spike in violence, not only in D.C., but in other urban areas, has really been accentuated by COVID," Edberg said.

Joseph Richardson, a University of Maryland professor of Afri-

can American studies and anthropology and gun violence prevention researcher, said researchers should embrace the perspectives of people from communities with high rates of gun violence, especially because they can inform which violence intervention programs are most successful.

Richardson said neighborhoods disproportionately impacted by structural violence like high levels of racism by systematic inequality, poverty and a lack of resources, like medical deserts and underfunded schools, are more likely to experience higher rates of gun violence. He said increasing resources like funding or better access to food can improve schools, which lowers dropout rates and leads to a lower chance of someone ending up in the criminal justice system.

"We can't talk about gun violence without talking about structural violence," Richardson said.

He said studies have found that children who live within four to five blocks from where shootings occur are more likely to be treated at an emergency department for mental health problems within two weeks of the shooting from the trauma associated with gun violence. Richardson said untreated mental health struggles related to gun violence trauma can "manifest" themselves through high-risk behaviors in adulthood.

"If you're doing a process evaluation, you can understand how programs are operating in real time and what

are the processes that programs need to uplift in order to prevent gun violence," Richardson said. "Ultimately, you need to engage in evaluative work to know what's working and what doesn't so you're able to shift your resources to focus on what works and then you can reallocate your resources from approaches that are not working."

Michael Siegel, a professor of public health at Tufts University, said state governments should implement gun violence prevention research and intervention centers in academic systems to combat gun violence. He said youth growing up in areas with high levels of gun violence develop traumatic childhood experiences without the emotional toll of losing someone the child cares about.

"Even if you're not personally affected by it, even just living in a neighborhood with a high level of gun violence has a tremendous negative impact on people's lives and mental health," Siegel said.

Siegel said firearm homicide rates are typically higher in communities facing high levels of racial disparities and that numbers vary from state-to-state. He said community intervention is the best way to combat high gun violence rates so utilizing people from those communities to implement intervention programs is the most effective.

"If you can directly impact those neighborhoods, you can have the greatest impact to reducing gun violence," Siegel said.

## Trans Awareness Week celebrates identity, history

From Page 1

"We don't encompass every single identity, so we didn't want it to be just ours," Younes said of TNBS's leadership.

Younes said TNBS worked with the MSSC to co-host some of the week's programming, like the Late Night at the MSSC event, where MSSC staff provided students with a free meal, snacks and transgender flags. They said the week's programming aimed to provide students with a safe, judgment-free space to ask questions and learn more about transgender individuals.

"A lot of people just don't understand trans people or transness," Younes said. "There's a lot of cancel culture at GW, and it's like, you don't want to say the wrong thing in class, but like you might not fully understand."

Sophomore Jovanna Walker, the vice president of GW Black Defiance, said she proposed the idea of hosting the "Check It" movie screening after receiving an email asking student organizations about event planning for the week. She said viewers discussed the intersections of race, gender and sexuality once the screening concluded.

"I hope that after the film and discussion, or even just interacting with Black Defiance, people are willing to go outside of Foggy Bottom, interact with members of the D.C. community and recognize how they're being disproportionately affected because of their identities," she said.

Sophomore Laine Schlezinger, TNBS's director of education, said providing spaces for transgender students to relax and celebrate their identity is vital after spending the week advocating for transgender visibility and remembering transgender individuals who have been killed in transphobic violence. They said TNBS offered coloring pages and a space to hang out with friends during Trans Awareness Week, allowing transgender students to "just live their lives."

"It's not just remem-

brance, it's 'How can we also prioritize joy and let our community relax after holding the burdens of education, after fighting nonstop for several years to keep our access to things like medical care alive?'" Schlezinger said. "We need and deserve a space to just chill out for a little bit."

Schlezinger said coming to college is often a transgender student's first opportunity to engage with other transgender individuals and find their own community, so offering programming for these students to connect during Trans Awareness Week is a "powerful tool."

They said professors should improve education on transgender identity with classes that focus on the politics of LGBTQ+ identity, which could allow students to learn about historical figures with identities similar to their own.

"I think that the chance to learn about yourself in a valid, educational manner makes you feel empowered," Schlezinger said. "You're like, 'Oh, I didn't realize that people like me have existed through history, through politics, through literature.'"

Sophomore Arlen Bandy, the vice president of TNBS, said they want to see the University implement more classes about transgender identity and history moving forward. They hope faculty will incorporate discussions of gender politics into political science courses, making gender politics and LGBTQ+ history the backbone of more studies instead of just a separate feature of some classes.

"I think the campus could do better in incorporating trans identity," they said. "As more of, 'This is part of the educational setting,' not next to it."

They said Trans Awareness Week offers a space for transgender students to gain "community and comfort," and the programming allows allies of the transgender community to educate themselves and achieve a stronger knowledge of transgender identities.

"I would say as a whole, anybody who comes to these events, I think, is going to probably walk away with a deeper understanding of transness," Bandy said.



COURTESY OF GW WOMEN IN BUSINESS AND BUSINESS PRIDE NETWORK  
Student leaders said the week's programming provided a space for transgender students to celebrate their identity.

# Opinions

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

Delayed deliveries of students' midterm election ballots. p. 1

FROM GWHATCHET.COM/OPINIONS

"You can hit bars or watch many other sporting events — but the 2022 World Cup shouldn't be one of them. Come late November, this tournament won't have my support."

— FLORA ROY on 11/17/2022

## GW should let students focus on their majors, not unrelated requirements

GW's nine general education requirements cover a vast array of courses that help train students in a variety of analytical disciplines. But these classes are useless for students who've already declared their major. I chose to attend GW because I was excited to partake in the incredibly uncommon creative writing and English degree program, a combination that's hard to find at many universities. My major is only 33 credits, but I still have to slog through an additional 26 credits in math, science, social science and oral communication courses as part of general education requirements.

Grace O'Reilly  
Opinions Writer

Despite the necessary foundation for writing and conversational skills that general education requirements provide, GW should eliminate the courses that individual schools already require to relieve students from coursework that bears little-to-no relationship to their major.

GW has a 24-credit cap on the number of AP and IB credits from high school that students can apply to their education. These high school credits can fulfill the University's critical thinking, math, science, writing and oral communication requirements. But whether or not they have AP and IB credits, many students will need to retake courses to graduate from GW. Each category of GW's requirements has a list of classes that will fulfill the requirement, but some are downright paradoxical — there are foreign language courses that don't fulfill the oral communication credit and introductory classes that feel as difficult as capstone courses. Several semesters of general education requirements



MAURA KELLY-YUOH | STAFF CARTOONIST

rob students of the time to take electives, pick up a minor, double major or learn a new language.

Additional school-specific requirements demonstrate the redundant nature of the University's

overarching general education requirements. The Columbian College of Arts and Sciences — which houses my writing and English program — requires students to take six additional courses in criti-

cal thinking, scientific reasoning and creative thinking, global or cross-cultural perspectives and local or civic engagement, according to the CCAS academic advising website. Students in the School

of Engineering and Applied Science, School of Business and Elliott School of International Affairs must take a required science, social science and humanities course from the University's general education requirements. But how many courses must students take before they can actually focus on their major?

Forcing students to take classes that are largely unrelated to their major can jeopardize their college success, future, ability to stay on good academic standing and mental health. Though all GW's fields of study have their own set of challenges, intro-level requirements that add little to a student's overall education should not risk them losing their scholarships or high-level post-graduate jobs if they risk getting academic probation.

Students only have four years at GW, and I'm dreading wasting my time with another semester of required lab science, social science, history and civic engagement classes next spring. I'd rather study something I'm passionate about, and I'm sure other students would too. For the amount of money each student pays to attend GW, it's disheartening to realize that you're paying in time and money for courses that are not beneficial to your major and career aspirations.

GW should eliminate its social science, science, history and writing in the disciplines requirements, which school-specific requirements already cover, so students can have the chance to take another class in their major or an elective of interest. If the University removed its additional requirements, students could make the most of their college experience before entering the real world.

— Grace O'Reilly, a sophomore majoring in creative writing and English, is an opinions writer.

## After the tragic shooting at UVA, where do we go from here?

### STAFF EDITORIAL

For as long as the members of this editorial board have been alive, school shootings have cast a shadow over our education. Last Sunday, a student allegedly killed three and injured two other students at the University of Virginia as they returned from a field trip.

Our heart goes out to the family and friends of Devin Chandler, Lavel Davis, D'Sean Perry and everyone this terrible tragedy has affected. It has been impossible to grieve their deaths without looking to GW. Every school shooting, especially one so close to home and in which a student is a suspect, births ghastly "what-ifs" — could we be next?

In the aftermath of this incident — and after every school shooting — we've looked around to find the nearest entrances and exits of the places we frequent on campus, mapped escape routes from labyrinthian academic buildings and wondered whether the classroom door is strong enough to hold back an intruder. We are afraid to lose our lives and the people we love to similar acts of gun violence on GW's campus.

The constant drumbeat of mass shootings has scarred an entire generation, and it truly feels as though there's never a reprieve — a high school in Tenleytown went into lockdown Friday after reports of gunfire in the area. In August, a 15-year-old student shot and

wounded two classmates at a school in Deanwood. And in April, a man wounded four people at a school in Van Ness, leading to a lockdown and search for the suspect. Young people in the United States don't know a time before "active shooter drills" and politicians' ham-fisted offers of "thoughts and prayers" became routine.

From elementary to middle to high school and now to college, we are the first generation for whom these tragedies have become commonplace.

And while we may have avoided the physical scars of gun violence, no one should feel that their classroom here at GW could become a crime scene. Students shouldn't have to worry they're in imminent danger at the hands of someone using a firearm.

GW and other universities may not be able to stop shootings before they start, but there are steps it can and should take to limit the harm they can create. GW offers discussion-based active shooter training to students, staff and faculty to prepare them to respond to a shooting, which is less traumatic than hyperrealistic scenarios, but this training does require a minimum of five participants and five days' notice. Stocking buildings with kits that contain tourniquets, bandages and other medical equipment and training the GW community to use them would allow the University

to place the proper precautions and safety measures in place.

GW should certainly invest in tangible solutions to gun violence, but our anxiety about mass shootings as young people will never go away.

The members of the editorial board are personally horrified, shocked and frustrated by what happened at UVA and what has been happening across the country for decades now. We have friends and family who attend UVA. One of us has a parent who works minutes away from Sandy Hook, where the scars of tragedy still run deep. And another has a parent who is the assistant principal of an elementary school, where news of each school shooting sets off a pang of anguish. All of us have something at stake if, or when, the next school shooting happens. And statistically speaking, there will be a next one as we wait for a cycle of grief, sorrow and worry to set in motion yet again.

It will take much more than active shooter training and trauma kits to stop gun violence. To that end, The Hatchet has published pieces calling on public officials to take action against what feels like the defining issue of our time. As politicians vow to do something about school shootings in the face of public pressure, we want to acknowledge that it's okay to feel afraid, angry or just numb — we certainly do.

## From Atlanta to D.C., environmental racism harms communities of color

Not being able to catch your breath is a scary feeling, one that I know all too well. During the early part of my childhood, my family and I lived right by Memorial Drive, a large multilane highway in Decatur, Georgia. Soon after moving there as a toddler, I would wheeze every time my mother and father took me for a walk.

Kamau Louis  
Opinions Writer

After only a few months of being unable to catch my breath, my parents sent me to live with my grandparents in Orlando, Florida for my health. But moving didn't undo the damage the air pollution had caused, and I was diagnosed with asthma and struggled with shortness of breath when I was in elementary school. I never knew exactly what happened to me until college, when I learned that I experienced environmental racism. Environmental infrastructure, from highways to garbage dumps, disproportionately interferes with communities of color and harms their residents with toxic pollution. From Atlanta to D.C., environmental racism is all around us.

Memorial Drive connects downtown Atlanta to Stone Mountain, Georgia, a monument that depicts Confederate figureheads and was the spiritual home of the revived KKK of the 1900s. Many Black convicts

working in chain gangs — essentially modern-day slavery — built parts of the highway in the 1930s. The racist past of Memorial Drive has continued to live on through its impact on the environment, but it is only one example of how infrastructure can disproportionately affect people of color.

Brentwood and Eckington, two neighborhoods in Northeast D.C., are home to the only asphalt plants in the city. The fumes from these plants can lead to everything from headaches and fatigue to throat and eye irritation and skin cancer. To make matters worse, Mayor Muriel Bowser has decided to build a 230-school bus hub in Eckington, significantly increasing vehicle emissions.

The residents of Brentwood and Eckington — as well as the Fort Totten and the Benning Road area, where two D.C. Department of Public Works' trash transfer stations are located — are all predominantly Black. Everyone deserves to breathe clean air, and people of color should not face the brunt of poor environmental decision making. Class, also plays a role in environmental racism. There are no trash transfer stations or asphalt plants popping up in Dupont Circle or west of Rock Creek Park. Instead, these industrial sites are placed in low-income areas because of the discriminatory belief that the lives of those who are less fortunate don't

matter. But people are fighting back — the residents of Brentwood are suing the D.C. government over its plans to construct that 230-school bus depot.

Environmental racism is an issue of human rights and equality. In the city that GW students call home for years, rates of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, lung cancer and stroke are five times higher in Southeast than in Northwest, which is only worsened by a lack of accessible and affordable health services east of the Anacostia River. The D.C. government is not serving the people it claims to represent — it's actively hurting them, and we cannot turn a blind eye to the wrongdoing happening right in front of our faces.

GW's annual Day of Service in August shouldn't be the only time we serve the wider D.C. community here, especially when many of us want to be future change makers. We can email and call public officials, attend public hearings about upcoming projects and recruit people to get involved as well.

Even though D.C. may be just our temporary home for four years, it is still our home nonetheless. We should be fighting to make it safe for all. Environmental racism affects people everywhere, and the battle against it is ongoing. I challenge you all to look into issues here in D.C. and your hometown and see what you can do to help win the fight.

— Kamau Louis, a senior majoring in political science, is an opinions writer.

Jarrod Wardwell, editor in chief

The GW  
Hatchet

609 21st St. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20052  
gwhatchet.com | @gwhatchet

ews@gwhatchet.com  
gwhatchet.com  
gwhatchet.com  
gwhatchet.com  
gwhatchet.com  
gwhatchet.com  
gwhatchet.com  
gwhatchet.com  
gwhatchet.com  
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Cost — Single copies free. Additional copies available for purchase upon request.

# Culture

## THE SCENE

**DOWNTOWN HOLIDAY MARKET**  
Nov. 18 to Dec. 23 | F Street between 7th and 9th Streets NW | Free  
Explore the rich variety of vendors, locally roasted coffee and desserts at this year's annual holiday market, inspiring seasonal cheer.

**THE NUTCRACKER**  
Wednesday, Nov. 23 to Sunday, Nov. 27 | The Kennedy Center | Tickets starting at \$5  
Ring in the season by enjoying this holiday classic live in the heart of the District.

## RELEASED THIS WEEK:

NEW SINGLE: "SO MUCH WINE" BY PHOEBE BRIDGERS

## Easy Thanksgiving dishes to impress guests at your holiday gathering

**MOKSHA AKIL**  
REPORTER

When the Thanksgiving season rolls around, crafting a dish fit for a feast can carry a lot of pressure.

Discover some recipes that won't take all day to make but are sure to dazzle your loved ones.

### Bittersweet Chocolate Mousse

**Ingredients**  
– 10 ounces of bittersweet chocolate  
– Sea salt flakes, to taste

#### Instructions

Combine ice and a small amount of water in a large bowl to create an ice bath. Nestle a smaller bowl in the ice bath.

Put the chocolate and one cup of water in a small pot over medium heat. Whisk for about three to five minutes or until the mixture is melted and smooth.

Immediately pour melted chocolate into the bowl in the ice bath. Vigorously whisk chocolate mixture by hand for about three to five minutes until thick. Scoop the mousse into bowls and sprinkle a small amount of sea salt flakes overtop.

### Potato Cake

**Ingredients**  
– 3 pounds russet potatoes, scrubbed  
– 6 tablespoons unsalted butter  
– 6 garlic cloves, smashed and peeled  
– Salt and black pepper



For those of us who can't get enough potato dishes during the holiday season, this soft-yet-crispy potato cake is just for you.

– Pinch of ground nutmeg  
– 1/2 cup sour cream  
– 1 tablespoon finely chopped chives

#### Instructions

Heat your oven to 425 degrees and bake the potatoes directly on oven rack until tenderly cooked with crispy skin, which should take about an hour to an hour and

15 minutes. Remove from the oven and let sit until cool enough to handle. Lower the oven temperature to 400 degrees.

Warm a 10-inch nonstick, skillet over medium heat. Place the butter in the skillet and swirl before tossing in the garlic to cook, stirring occasionally. Once both the garlic and butter reach a golden brown, remove the skillet from heat.

Cut the hot potatoes in half and scoop the insides out onto a cutting board as you save the skins for snacking or discard. Chop up the flesh to produce pieces varying in sizes.

Deposit insides into the skillet, season with salt and pepper and sprinkle a pinch of nutmeg. Add the sour cream and fold the mixture while evenly coating the

potatoes. Flatten the mixture gently into a layer. Place the skillet over medium-high heat to cook for about five to eight minutes until all moisture has evaporated and the potatoes begin to develop a golden hue on the bottom.

### Vanilla Crème Brûlée

**Ingredients**  
– 2 cups heavy or light cream, or half-and-half  
– 1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
– 1/8 teaspoon salt  
– 5 egg yolks  
– 1/2 cup sugar, more for topping

#### Instructions

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. In a saucepan, combine cream and salt. Cook over low heat until the mixture turns hot. Let sit for a few minutes. Add vanilla extract.

In a bowl, beat the yolks and sugar together until light. After stirring about a quarter of the cream into this mixture, pour the sugar-egg mixture into the cream and stir. Pour into four 6-ounce ramekins or small oven-safe bowls and place in a baking dish. Fill the dish with boiling water until halfway up the side. Bake for 30 to 40 minutes or until centers of the crème brûlée are barely set. After cooling completely, refrigerate for several hours.

Before serving the dishes, top each custard with a teaspoon of sugar. Put ramekins into a broiler three inches from the heat source. Turn on broiler and cook for about five minutes until the sugar melts and browns.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY AUDEN YURMAN | SENIOR PHOTO EDITOR

The series serves as an extended metaphor for grief and loss, made even more devastating by the heartbreaking yet well-executed ending of Season 3.

## 'Dead to Me' storyline comes full-circle in final installment

**JULIA KOSCELNIAK**  
CONTRIBUTING CULTURE EDITOR

When Liz Feldman's "Dead to Me" premiered in 2019, it filled a space that was largely missing in television – a quick-witted dark comedy – or "traumedy." These series have the rare ability to make viewers hysterically laugh and cry within seconds of one another, tackling profound ideas of grief and loss all while maintaining cathartic humor throughout.

The nearly impossible feat that "Dead to Me" achieved is only attainable because of two factors – Feldman's impeccable writing and the transcendent, unparalleled chemistry between Emmy nominees Christina Applegate and Linda Cardellini. Their complex yet earnest portrayal of female friendship is the heart of the show, culminating in a third and final season released last week that encapsulates the central essence of the series in a way that feels complete and authentic.

"Dead to Me" initially introduces viewers in Season 1 to cynical real estate agent Jen and eccentric optimist Judy, who cross paths at a grief support group in Laguna, California. The series quickly reveals that there is more to the pair than meets the eye – Judy has joined the group to befriend Jen out of guilt because she played a role in the hit-and-run of her husband.

After an immeasur-

able amount of twists and turns, Season 1 ends with a grand reveal – Jen winds up killing Steve, Judy's ex-fiance, in self defense. Season 2 brilliantly flips the dynamic of Season 1, deepening the complicated friendship between Jen and Judy, who become each other's chosen family. As Season 2 comes to a close, the two are seemingly on the other side of their crimes as well as their personal struggles – until they are hit by a car themselves. Season 3 begins with the two women in the hospital trying to make sense of the accident, which is further exacerbated by a health scare.

Feldman has said she always knew "Dead to Me" would be a three- or four-season show, evidenced by the meticulous planning of each detail and the full-circle plot of the series. But what was unplanned was Applegate's 2021 multiple sclerosis diagnosis in the midst of filming the final season. After receiving her diagnosis while on set, production paused for about five months. Despite struggling to walk and requiring limited hours on set, Applegate said she felt an obligation to conclude the characters' story, which surrounds illness particularly in Season 3.

The remarkable off-screen friendship, detailed by Cardellini in her speech, that the two women have developed as a result of filming the show shines through in their acting performances, particularly

during such a difficult time for Applegate. Despite her struggles and chronic pain, her illness was barely visible on-screen, thanks to creative camera blocking and the Thelma-and-Louise-esque duo's incredible humor that brings the two flawed yet loveable characters to life.

Season 3 maintains the show's classic plot twists and unmistakable brand of humor but hones in on what has always been the core element of the show – the shared grief and abundant love between Jen and Judy. The semi-autobiographical series stems from Feldman's own struggles with grief, infertility and motherhood, all of which Applegate and Cardellini authentically and honestly depict. In addition to her own experiences, Feldman has also incorporated some of her stars' real life struggles into the plot, including Applegate's experiences with a double mastectomy in 2008 after surviving breast cancer.

The series serves as an extended metaphor for grief and loss, made even more devastating by the heartbreaking yet well-executed ending of Season 3. But the unfaltering support Jen and Judy provide for one another throughout their turbulent and dysfunctional times together is nevertheless uplifting and serves as a lesson to viewers, "reminding you to remember" what you've lost and its significance, as Judy says to Jen throughout the final season.

## Crack open the books for finals at these secluded, local study spots

**NICK PERKINS**  
STAFF WRITER

With finals fast approaching, it can be all too easy to feel trapped in Foggy Bottom amid the pressure of studying, but take the time to traverse the blocks of the D.C. metro area lined with fresh spots to hit the books.

The city surrounding campus offers numerous quiet, concealed locations that make the perfect fit for peak productivity and stunning landmark views. Instead of stowing yourself away in your dorm for the next month, try one of these five secluded study spots spread out across the District and its suburbs.

### Library of Congress

For your first excursion, saunter to the heart of the District and study at the Library of Congress. Simply register for a Reader Identification Card at the Reader Registration Center in the Madison Building with a government-issued identification card and you'll be set to hit the books.

The Library of Congress's grand main reading room sits under a mammoth dome lined with marble columns reaching down to the base of the floor, containing 226 connected semicircular wooden research desks rounding the entire space.

The library features a number of reading rooms spread through its various buildings themed around genres with books tailored to each topic. If you have an ambitious research project due at the end of the semes-

ter, you can book a research appointment for one of the library's numerous collection-specific reading rooms.

### Cafe du Parc

Instead of letting final exams disrupt your ventures around D.C., slip away in the early morning to this Federal Triangle-based French restaurant and enjoy refreshing drinks, including any formulation of coffee. Enjoy an extensive brunch menu and sights of some of the District's most iconic locations like the Washington Monument and Pershing Park. The brasserie offers an extensive menu for any meal – including a wide variety of coffees like the Italian-inspired iced espresso crema shakerato, espresso shots mixed with sugar and syrup to fuel your studying.

Cafe du Parc boasts an idyllic location where you can stay visually stimulated as you study and take in the sights of D.C. As you sit at one of the restaurant's many outdoor tables or within its upscale interior, check out the fountains and statues of Pershing Park and the World War I Memorial right across the street.

### Potter's House

Instead of situating yourself within Gelman Library's stacks of books and dull fluorescent lights for days on end, meander over to this historic bookstore and bistro in Adams Morgan. Between its rustic wooden tables and bookshelves and floor to ceiling windows, this cafe gives you the chance to seclude

yourself within rows upon rows of bookshelves free from the fluorescent lights of Gelman Library.

Potter's House offers indoor seating at tables spread throughout the store in addition to limited patio seating. Take a peek at the menu, full of caffeinated drinks under \$5, packing flavors like caramel, nut and chocolate. Read about Native American culture or the feminist movement to immerse yourself in the store's books that specialize in topics like equity and justice – even if you finish your studies early you'll have no shortage of stories in these shelves.

### Bayou Bakery

Take a day just outside of the District to visit this southern-inspired cozy cafe in Arlington for a taste of New Orleans. This cafe offers a quiet environment with its specialty New Orleans cuisine that takes heavy influence from Cajun, Creole and soul food. With a roughly 15-minute Metro ride from campus to Court House station, walk two minutes to the hidden away spot. The bakery hosts patio seating and symmetrical square tables and chairs – certain to suit your study set-up preferences.

Bayou Bakery presents an extensive menu of baked goods, most notably their beignets (\$3.75) – New Orleans-style donuts which are essentially fried cubes of dough covered in powdered sugar. The pastries are the perfect treat if you're in need of a sugar boost when studying wears you down.



KRISHNA RAJPARA | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

If you have an ambitious research project due at the end of the semester, you can book a research appointment for one of the Library of Congress' numerous collection-specific reading rooms.

# Sports

## GAMES OF THE WEEK



**MEN'S BASKETBALL**  
vs. UC San Diego  
Tuesday | 7 p.m. EDT  
The Colonials welcome the Tritons to the Smith Center as they look to keep their undefeated streak at home.



**WOMEN'S BASKETBALL**  
vs. East Tennessee  
Friday | 4:30 p.m. EDT  
GW looks for an early lead in the UNLV Thanksgiving Tournament as they take on the Buccaneers in game one.

**NUMBER CRUNCH**

**.750**

Men's basketball's winning percentage through the first four games, up from their five-year average of .450.

## Men's basketball withstands late rally to defeat Maryland Eastern Shore at home

**JADEN DIMAURO**  
STAFF WRITER

Men's basketball took down Maryland Eastern Shore 69-64 Friday at the Smith Center, despite a furious, late-game run by the Hawks.

The GW guards' relentless attack on the paint ultimately provided enough of a cushion for the Colonials (3-1) to eke out a win over the Hawks (1-3), with graduate student guard Brendan Adams and senior guard James Bishop IV contributing 17 and 19 points, respectively. GW improved to three wins on the season with its recent victory, rebounding from a tough loss on the road to Hofstra Nov. 14.

"The way they play defense, they put a lot of pressure, so if you get it inside, they're going to break down in some places," Adams said in a post-game interview. "So that was definitely a big point of emphasis, just getting it in the paint."

The game got off to a slow start for both teams with the score sitting at 5-5 after the first three minutes. But a signature snatch-back 3-pointer from Bishop and senior forward Ricky Lindo Jr.'s first alley-oop slam of the game provided a spark and had the GW fans rumbolling.

Head Coach Chris Caputo emphasized the importance of student engagement in a post-game press conference.

"It's what can make this special as we move forward," Caputo said. "It's as much a part of what we need to do here as anything else, is create that really special bond with the

students. They really brought it, and I expect them to bring it every time school's in session."

Despite the early makings of a dominant run, the Colonials couldn't manage to pull away from the Hawks, and the score was knotted again with five minutes to go in the first half at 19-19.

As the end of the first quarter approached, Bishop started to heat up. After splitting the Hawks' defense down the middle and sinking a contested floater, he blew by his defender for a layup that gave GW a 25-19 lead and a window of opportunity.

With a minute to go in the first, Lindo blew that window open, rocking the Smith Center with two rim-rattling alley-oop dunks to take GW into halftime with a 31-21 lead and momentum.

Coming out of the gate in the second half, Maryland Eastern Shore began to chip away at the 10-point GW lead. Graduate student guard Ahamadou Fofana knocked in two free throws, a mid-range jumper and a 3-pointer to cut the Colonial advantage to just 5 with three minutes gone by in the half.

Thanks to a consistent offensive barrage from Bishop and Adams, the Colonials pulled away again, extending their lead to 55-36 with just six minutes left to go in the game.

But from then on, GW's game started to fall apart. The Hawks' full-court press, which the Colonials had done a good job at breaking for most of the game, suddenly began to present problems.

While the Colonials struggled with turnovers all game, finishing



Graduate student guard Brendan Adams scored 19 points, leading a steady offensive barrage to keep the Colonials on top.

with 18 total, the last three minutes of the game were especially error-prone. In the last three minutes of the game, GW turned the ball over five times, allowing the Hawks to claw their way back into game.

"I'm going to give credit to UMES, because that's their style of play, it's what they do," Caputo said. "We've got to really look at what we did there with the press break and then see why we turned it over a lot. I thought we hung on to it a little too

much when we could have gotten it out of our hands."

What had been a 19-point lead dwindled to just 9 with 45 seconds to go in the game. A 3-pointer from graduate student guard Donchevell Nugent cut it to 7 with thirty seconds left.

Ultimately, GW was able to secure critical rebounds and hold onto the ball long enough to hang on to their lead and squeak out with a 69-64 win.

Caputo said the team will miss having the student section packed next week as many students leave campus for the holidays.

"I'm going to miss them next week, I hope some people are hanging around," he said. "Maybe if they want to have Thanksgiving at my house we can keep them around for some of these games."

The Colonials play UC San Diego at the Smith Center Tuesday at 7 p.m.

## Baseball honors commitment to Jackie Robinson's legacy with annual award

**NURIA DIAZ**  
SPORTS EDITOR

The 27th annual Jackie Robinson night paid tribute to the efforts of the GW Baseball program's efforts to commemorate Jackie Robinson's memory Thursday night.

The baseball program began its affiliation with the project 25 years ago when then Head Coach Tom Walter agreed to host a commemorative home game for Jackie Robinson. This year the Jackie and Rachel Society honored junior shortstop Steve DiTomasso with the Jackie and Rachel Robinson Society Community Recognition Award – given to a GW baseball player whose qualities on and off the field best reflect those associated with Jackie Robinson – and honored Head Coach Greg Ritchie for his lifetime commitment.

"It's a long standing commitment to understanding what Jackie Robinson and Rachel have done for the world and the amount of change that happened because of their courage to step forward and say things and do things, and to show the actions of what it means to have justice in social justice," Head Coach Greg Ritchie said.

The program, created in 1996, leads events that focus on Jackie Robinson's impact on baseball and the civil rights movement.

Associate Professor of Sociology and Director of the Jackie Robinson Project Dr. Richard Zamoff visits schools across the country to host lectures about Robinson and to gather funds from donors in and out of the University.

In 2018, University officials announced the termination of the then-22-year-old program citing financial strains, but students around the University launched a petition to dissuade the administration which proved successful.

Zamoff said students and members of the Jackie Robinson project must keep in mind the difficult history of the project because its very existence was threatened by the GW administration. He said this danger is present at the MLB level where the Houston Astros and Philadelphia Phillies World Series Final was the first final "since 1950, in which neither team had on [its] roster, a single African American player born in the United States."

"We cannot pretend, nor should wait, that those years did not occur, nor should we delude ourselves that those challenges have disappeared, there are decision-makers at GW who simply do not value what we do," Zamoff said.

Zamoff said the baseball program has been a great resource for society

as it has allowed them to institutionalize Jackie Robinson's legacy with the annual game and award show as a celebration for the entire GW community. He said during the COVID-19 pandemic the project was unable to host any events but the baseball program proved to be "a valuable liaison" to connect the project to the student community and helped them plan the award show.

Zamoff then presented the Jackie Robinson Direct Appreciation Award to the baseball program while honoring Head Coach Ritchie for his commitment to continuing the relationship with the Jackie and Rachel Robinson society.

In the final minutes of the award ceremony, the baseball program gave its own recognition award to Zamoff for his years of service to the Jackie Robinson program. He said he wanted to honor Zamoff's 25-year involvement with both the project and society in educating students about the importance of Jackie Robinson's impact on race relations within baseball.

"It has been our distinct honor, and I'm very, very humbled in this award for all the people past, but it goes without saying that this would not be something so specific in this world were not for Jackie and Rachel Robinson," Ritchie said.

## GW Athletics launches exclusive donor club with access to coaches, events

**GABE LOPEZ**  
CONTRIBUTING SPORTS EDITOR

GW Athletics launched an exclusive giving society for its highest-paying donors to ramp up fundraising engagement, the department announced in a release Tuesday.

The 1732 Circle members will have exclusive access to conversations with head coaches and Athletic Director Tanya Vogel, special events with members of the GW athletic community and gear branded by GW Athletics

and the 1732 Circle. Fans must donate at least \$25,000 over five years to GW Athletics, scholarships and facilities projects to qualify as members of the program, which will be housed under the Buff and Blue Fund, a GW Giving initiative supporting student-athletes.

"The 1732 Circle will foster a level of sustained giving that will have a generational impact on our student-athletes in their commitment to excel in the classroom and compete for championships," Vogel said in the release.

The Buff and Blue

Fund raises money to connect student-athletes with academic advising, community service opportunities, leadership development and more. The Fund finances GW Athletics teams through facility maintenance, recruiting efforts and travel costs.

The 1732 Circle joins the George Washington Society, Heritage Society, Luther Rice Society and GW Loyal as the only donor recognition societies that look to recognize those who consistently donate year after year, according to the GW Giving website.

## Student-athlete graduation rate eclipses nationwide DI average

**NURIA DIAZ**  
SPORTS EDITOR

Student-athletes graduate at a 94 percent rate at GW, exceeding the Division I average, according to U.S. Department of Education data the NCAA released Tuesday.

GW Athletics' graduation success rate – which the NCAA calculates to measure the number of students who enter and graduate college – topped the NCAA's 90 percent recorded across DI institutions, according to an athletics department release issued Tuesday. The release states the data covers students who entered college between the 2012-13 and 2015-16 academic years as part of a six-year cohort that Education Department "prescribed."

Seven programs achieved a perfect 100 score, including men's and women's cross country and track, volleyball, golf, gymnastics, women's soccer and women's tennis, according to the release.

The release states the NCAA developed the graduation rate to address college and university presidents who wanted a more accurate reflection of graduation data among all college students. The NCAA's graduation success rate traces athletes who received aid to compete "for any period of time during their first year" and



FILE PHOTO BY ARIELLE BADER  
Students athletes have received national and regional recognition for academic success in previous years, not only for graduation rates but also for their grade point average in the classroom.

accounts for the academic outcomes of student-athletes who transfer from one institution to another, the release states.

"It is rewarding to see each and every student graduate and commence into their field of choice, and these sterling GSR numbers are a testament to the academic excellence that our student-athletes, coaches and support staff prioritize," Director of Athletics Tanya Vogel said in the release.

Students-athletes have received national and regional recognition for academic success in previous years, not only for graduation rates but also for their grade point average in the classroom.

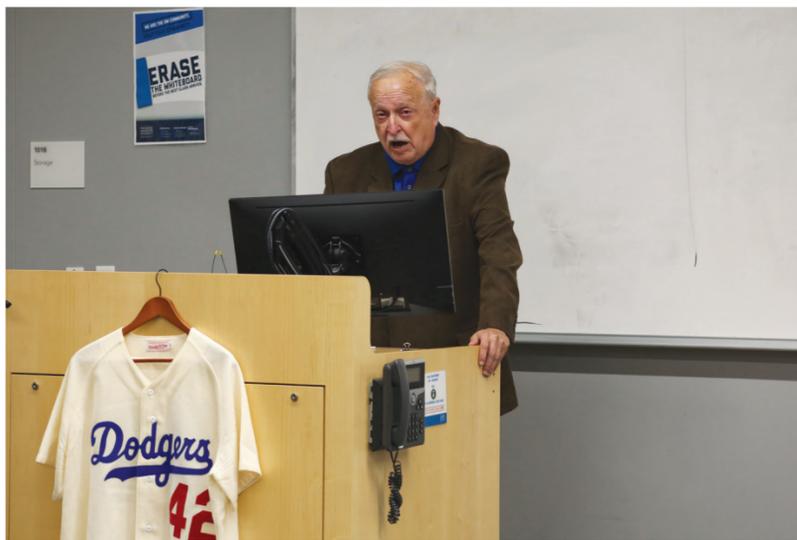
The Atlantic 10 named 274 GW student-athletes to the Conference Commissioner's Honor Roll

for the 2020-21 academic year, with a combined 3.5 average GPA throughout the pandemic.

A total of 26 teams held at least a combined 3.0 GPA in spring 2021, with 257 student-athletes securing at least a 3.5 GPA. 49 student-athletes recorded a 4.0 GPA that semester, while 378 student-athletes maintained at least a 3.0 GPA, according to the release.

The A-10 has yet to publicize the student-athletes it has named to its honor role for the previous academic year.

Men's tennis led all GW sports programs in the spring with a combined 3.91 team GPA, followed by gymnastics with a 3.82. Women's soccer registered a 3.74 mark, followed by golf with a 3.71 and women's cross country and track with a 3.67.



JENNIFER IGBONOBA | PHOTOGRAPHER  
The baseball program began its affiliation with the project 25 years ago when then Head Coach Tom Walter agreed to host a commemorative home game for Jackie Robinson.