

The GW Hatchet

Opinions

The editorial board examines what GW students can do in the fight for D.C.'s right to self-governance. Page 6

Culture

Give these podcasts a listen to explore a new interest, or learn more about an already established one. Page 7

Sports

Check out the swimming and diving programs as they continue their regional dynasty. Page 8

What's inside

Men's basketball extends win streak, entering final stretch

LUKE WIENECKE
CONTRIBUTING SPORTS EDITOR

Men's basketball picked up their third straight win Saturday night with a 92-85 victory over La Salle that featured a career-high scoring performance from senior forward Hunter Dean.

The Colonials (15-14, 9-7 A-10) capitalized on consistent finishing at the rim and a steady offensive attack while holding the Explorers (13-16, 7-9 A-10) to 40 percent shooting from the field. With just two games remaining on the schedule, GW took another step toward solidifying a top-five Atlantic 10 finish and a first-round bye in the conference championship.

In a night where rebounding proved key to victory, Dean's eight boards helped turn the battle for the glass in the Colonials' favor in the second half. Registering 36 minutes, Dean only logged less time than senior guard and leading scorer James Bishop.

Dean got the scoring started with a powerful dunk off the assist from Bishop, the first two of his career-high 21 points of the night. GW jumped to an 8-0 lead within just three minutes, with five of those coming from Dean.

The Colonials controlled much of the game through their sheer scoring output, firing nearly 60 percent from the field and scoring 50 of their points in the painted area.

The Explorers pushed back on the early GW run with two straight wing threes, with 15:27 to play. Both squads continued to trade baskets before senior guard James Bishop nailed a top-of-the-key, pull-up three to push the Colonials' lead back up to 5 midway through the first half.

La Salle grabbed their first lead of the ball game off a second-chance three from red-shirt freshman guard Andres Marrero, putting the Explorers up 32-30 with 6:40 to

go in the first half. Bishop responded with a layup on the other end, giving him 16 points through just 15 minutes of play.

With three minutes to go in the first half, La Salle sophomore guard Daeshon Shepherd finished a contested layup at the basket to put the Explorers up two. The rest of the half was nearly scoreless, with a layup from graduate student guard Brendan Adams and a pair of La Salle free throws solidifying the halftime score at a 42-40 La Salle advantage.

The score stayed tight throughout the first stages of the second half, with both sides swapping layups and free throws. With 14:36 to play, Adams sliced inside and finished at the rim to give GW a seven point advantage at 58-51.

From there, the Colonials managed to keep La Salle at an arm's length, slowly building their lead to double digits while pounding it inside. With nine minutes to play, Adams knocked down GW's lone second half 3-pointer off the assist from Bishop, pushing the lead to 17 points.

With just six minutes to go, Lindo Jr. knocked down a midrange jumper that put the GW lead at 20 points, the largest of the night. But the Explorers were not finished, going on a 20-9 run in the final three minutes that forced Caputo to put his starters back in, subbing them back in.

But the barrage of threes from La Salle did not come in time, and the Colonials captured the victory, 92-85.

With the win, the Colonials now sit at sixth in the crowded A-10 standings, just a half-game back from fifth-place Duquesne. Two games remain on the schedule before the team packs its bags and heads to Brooklyn for the conference championship.

GW will head to North Carolina to play Davidson in their final road game of the year at 7 p.m. Wednesday.



MAYA NAIR | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
With the win, the Colonials now sit in sixth place in the crowded A-10 standings, just a half-game back from fifth-place Duquesne.



RACHEL SCHWARTZ | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR
GW students who survived the Parkland shooting said they're looking to honor the victims by continuing to tell their stories and reflect on the grim impacts of gun violence as similar mass shootings occur at schools nationwide.

Students who survived Parkland grieve as mass shootings across US continue

FAITH WARDWELL
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Sophomore Eden Samara was reuniting over dinner with friends from her alma mater Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School last Monday when news broke of a deadly shooting at Michigan State University.

Despair and dread set into the group from Parkland, Florida, who know tragedy all too well – they were meeting the day before the fifth anniversary of the shooting that killed 17 classmates, teachers and coaches. One of them was Samara's childhood friend Alyssa Alhadeff, the studious and soccer-loving 14-year-old girl who lost her life in the shooting.

"Every time I hear about a shooting at a school, my stomach drops because I know the feeling, and I know that it's the worst thing," Samara said. "I know that it'll be with these people forever because it'll be with me forever."

Samara is one of several Parkland school shooting survivors at GW who have been transported back to the 2018 tragedy after viewing retraumatizing headlines of recent school shootings, like the recent one at Michigan State that killed three students and the Robb Elementary School shooting in Uvalde, Texas where 21

students and teachers died. GW students who survived the 2018 shooting said they're looking to honor the victims by continuing to tell their stories and reflect on the grim impacts of gun violence as similar mass shootings occur at schools nationwide.

Samara said she remembers sitting in her art class on the day of the shooting when the high school's fire alarm began to ring. Upon leaving the building, she realized that the alarm wasn't a fire drill, seeing students running across the campus and hearing gunshots from the building as she traveled farther into the parking lot.

Samara said she ran from the high school's campus with friends, where her dad safely picked her up at a Walmart a few blocks away.

She said during the following hours, her family sat around the TV at home, watching the news muted to omit the graphic details of the shooting. She said they waited for updates on the climbing death toll as pictures of victims flashed on the screen and authorities confirmed the deaths of classmates, teachers and coaches.

"We'd be staring at the TV all day, and then a face or

a picture would flash on the TV, and you would just cross your fingers that you didn't know who they were," Samara said.

Sophomore Christine Yared, a freshman at Marjory Stoneman Douglas at the time of the shooting, said it's challenging to continue to see recent acts of gun violence spread to schools across the country, especially after seeing news of the Michigan State shooting on the day before the anniversary of the Parkland tragedy, which is a day Yared usually takes to reflect on the lives lost at her high school.

"They're going through what I went through exactly five years ago," Yared said. "It's difficult to watch back."

On the day of the shooting in Parkland, she said students in her finance class, located in a facility directly across from the building where the shooting took place, hid in a closet inside of the classroom for two hours before authorities cleared them from lockdown. As deaths were confirmed in the following hours, Yared learned that one of her friends, Gina Montalto, died in the shooting.

"It'll be with me forever."

EDEN SAMARA
SOPHOMORE

See **SURVIVORS** Page 5

See **FACULTY** Page 5

GW lags behind D.C. law mandating period products in bathrooms ahead of campus rollout

GRACE CHINOWSKY
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Officials are installing free period product dispensers in campus bathrooms to ensure their compliance with a nearly year-old D.C. law mandating schools offer free pads and tampons.

Congress codified the Expanding Student Access to Period Products Emergency Act into law last March, ordering universities and private, public and charter schools in the District to provide menstrual product dispensers in all female and gender-neutral bathrooms. But many of GW's buildings are currently in violation of the law – just nine of 29 buildings with academic and dining space that The Hatchet inspected on the Foggy Bottom and Mount Vernon campuses carried the free dispensers as of Thursday and Friday.

The Hatchet found free period product dispensers in seven of 25 buildings on Foggy Bottom – Gelman Library, 1957 E St., the Milken School of Public Health, the Graduate School of Education and Human Development, District House and Duques and Shenkman halls. Two of the four academic build-

ings on the Vern had dispensers in bathrooms.

There were at least three empty dispensers across both campuses Thursday and Friday, including one nonfunctional dispenser in 1957 E St. In at least five campus bathrooms, officials hadn't installed a dis-

perser, but tampons or pads sat on paper towel machines or counters.

Based on The Hatchet's review of more than 150 bathrooms, period product dispensers were installed in women's,

men's and gender-neutral bathrooms, but only in about one or two bathrooms of every building, leaving most bathrooms across campus without dispensers.

The Hatchet was unable to access Ross Hall and the Jacob Burns Law and Himmelfarb Health

dispensers that they will install in campus bathrooms after they arrive in the next "few weeks." Metjian declined to comment on how officials decided on the number of dispensers to order and which bathrooms would receive them.

"Officials will install

Eckles libraries, District House, 1957 E St., The Milken Institute School of Public Health, Duques, Ames, Innovation, and the Science and Engineering halls currently have dispensers.

Based on The Hatchet's review of campus bathrooms, SEH has no dispensers in any of its 20 bathrooms.

Metjian said officials will post signage by the dispensers with information about the safe use and disposal of the products – as required by the law – when the Office of the State Superintendent of Education, D.C.'s education agency, provides the materials.

At a Student Bar Association Senate meeting, Leila Diallo, the chair of the senate's student life committee, said she conferred with officials about the GW's lack of compliance with the legislation at the end of the last calendar year after discovering the law. She started a period product dispenser pilot program in the law school earlier this year, providing and stocking baskets of products in the school's bathrooms which she said were depleted within just 24 hours of filling them.



RACHEL SCHWARTZ | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR
Tampons or pads sat on paper towel machines or bathroom counters in at least five bathrooms Thursday and Friday where officials have yet to install dispensers, in violation of D.C. law.

Sciences Library because tap access is restricted to graduate students in those buildings.

University spokesperson Julia Metjian said earlier this month that officials ordered 400 dis-

perser providing products in every public all-gender and women's restroom on campus in compliance with D.C. law," Metjian said in an email.

She said Gelman and

See **PRODUCTS** Page 5

News

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

POLITICAL RHETORIC AND AMERICAN INDIAN POLITICAL RESISTANCE IN JACKSONIAN AMERICA
 Tuesday, Feb. 28 | 2 p.m. EDT | Online
 Tune into an event with a focus on indigenous land rights and sovereignty in the United States.

A DIALOGUE CIRCLE: WHAT IS HATE SPEECH? WHAT SHOULD GW DO ABOUT IT? WHO DECIDES?
 Thursday, March 2 | 11:30 a.m. EDT | University Student Center
 Join a conversation about how GW can address and define hate speech on campus.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY
 Feb. 27, 2006

NBC recruited 10 GW students to work as interns at the Olympic Games in Turin, Italy.

SNAPSHOT

JORDAN TOVIN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



A lion gazes up at the sprinkling snow Saturday at the National Zoo.

CRIME LOG

THEFT II/OTHER

Public Property on Campus (800 Block of 21st Street)
 2/14/2023 – 2:10-2:45 p.m.
 Open Case
 A male student reported his bike stolen.
Case open.

THEFT II/OTHER

University Yard (Breezeway)
 2/15/2023 – 2:08 p.m.
 Open Case
 A male student reported his bike stolen.
Case open.

THEFT II/BICYCLES

Eye Street Mall (Bike rack)
 2/15/2023 – 3:30-5:30 p.m.
 Open Case
 A non-GW affiliated female reported her electric bike stolen.
Case open.

THEFT II/FROM BUILDING

Academic Center
 2/16/2023 – Unknown
 Open Case
 A female staff member reported her laptop stolen from her office.
Case open.

SIMPLE ASSAULT

Off Campus
 2/17/2023 – 8:15 a.m.
 Open Case
 A female student reported that she was kicked by an unknown male subject off campus.
Case open.

LIQUOR LAW VIOLATION

Off Campus
 2/17/2023 – 11:45 p.m.
 Closed Case
 GW Police Department officers responded to the GW Hospital where they made contact with EMeRG responders. Upon arrival, officers made contact with an intoxicated male student who was found off campus by EMeRG officials.
Referred to Divison for Student Affairs.

SIMPLE ASSAULT

Eye Street Mall
 2/20/2023 – 8:15 a.m.
 Open Case
 A male student reported that he was punched by an unknown male subject after leaving 7-Eleven.
Case open.

— Compiled by Peyton Gallant

D.C.'s cherry blossoms approach record-early bloom date due to warm winter temperatures

SOPHIA GOEDERT
 ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

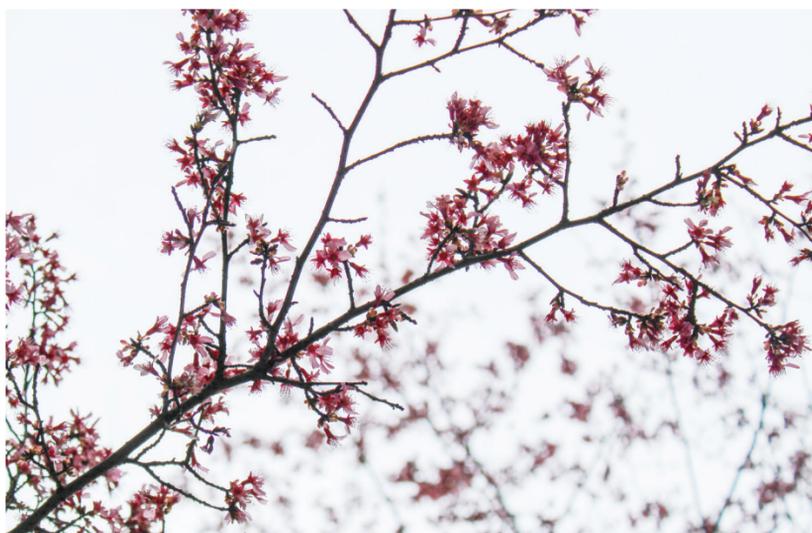
Record-breaking winter temperatures have pushed the District's cherry trees on the path to an early bloom, which experts said is a symptom of climate change's ongoing effects on D.C.'s local ecosystem.

Cherry trees across D.C. started blossoming as early as Feb. 17, roughly two weeks earlier than usual, according to an ABC News report. Experts in horticulture and climate studies said warmer temperatures are likely the cause behind the early bloom, but they can also leave room in the winter for late frosts, which can kill off cherry blossoms prematurely.

National Park Service spokesperson Mike Litterst said NPS will announce the expected peak bloom date Wednesday, but NPS expects the trees to bloom in mid to late March because of the warm weather, which can awaken the trees and cause them to bloom. Peak bloom, where more than 70 percent of the trees' blossoms are open, typically occurs during the last week of March or the first week of April, according to NPS.

"The historic average date of peak bloom is April 4; we certainly expect to be earlier than that this year, probably mid to late March," Litterst said in an email.

Since 1921, the cherry trees along D.C.'s tidal basin have gradually reached



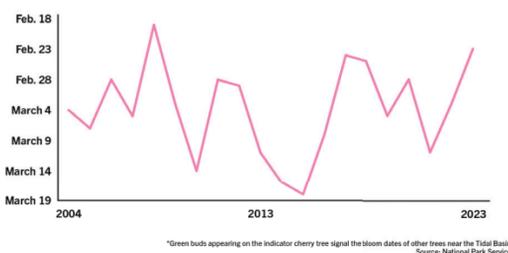
CAROLINE MOORE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Cherry trees across D.C. started blossoming as early as Feb. 17, roughly two weeks earlier than usual, according to an ABC News report.

peak bloom seven days earlier than the initial average peak bloom date of April 4, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

The indicator cherry tree – a tree that the NPS planted near the Tidal Basin to bloom 10 days earlier than the rest of the trees in the area to predict yearly bloom dates – started budding around Feb. 15, about two weeks ahead of schedule due to warmer weather. Forecasting the trees' peak bloom more than 10 days in advance is "almost impossible" due to unpredictable weather, like D.C.'s sporadic temperatures that hit 80 degrees Thursday before dropping to a snowy 30 degrees Saturday, according to NPS's website.

Green bud appearances on indicator cherry tree in DC from 2004 to 2023*



NICHOLAS ANASTACIO | GRAPHICS EDITOR

D.C. has had the warmest start to a year on record in 2023, with the average temperature hanging at 45 degrees since the start of January, according to the Washington Post's Capital Weather Gang. The 80-de-

gree high temperature Thursday is only the fourth time on record that temperatures have hit 80 degrees in D.C. in February.

In 1909, Japanese chemist Jokichi Takamine and Tokyo Mayor Yukio Oza-

ki gave more than 2,000 cherry trees after federal officials expressed interest in planting cherry trees around D.C. In 1910, however, the Department of Agriculture found the trees were infested with insects and disease so the department burned them down.

Ozaki requested the Japanese government make a second donation of disease-free trees to the United States, and more than 3,000

trees arrived in 1912. The planting of the trees lasted until 1920 and took place along the Tidal Basin and on White House grounds.

If the blossoms peak in mid-March, that would come ahead of the annual National Cherry Blossom Festival on March 20. The festival began in 1912 and will host its annual cherry blossom parade on April 15, according to the festival's website.

GW's endowment falls 'slightly' amid similar nationwide decline, trustees say

IANNE SALVOSA
 ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Officials said GW's endowment has declined "slightly," on par with a national trend of shrinking endowments due to high inflation rates.

Board of Trustees Secretary Avram Tucker said at a Board of Trustees meeting Friday that officials hope to maintain the University's \$2.4 billion endowment, a financial foundation used to fund professorships, scholarships and construction projects. The endowment increased from \$1.8 billion in fiscal year 2020 to \$2.4 billion in FY 2021, which ended June 30, 2021, and last year higher education and finance experts said GW's endowment could continue to decline from its \$2.4 billion standing due to precarious inflation rates nationwide.

The endowment rose by more than \$20 million in FY 2020 after decreasing by \$20 million in FY 2019.

Tucker said the University budget remains "on track," and Chief Financial Officer Bruno Fernandes

has started to focus on GW's real estate portfolio this year.

"We appreciate the administration's efforts to focus on controlling expenses within reason," Tucker said.

Board Chair Grace Speights declined to comment on if the Board plans to disclose GW's funding, research and gifts and what procedures officials will adjust to fit the shared governance principles that trustees approved in May. Speights also declined to comment on if the Board plans to extend future loans to the MFA or how trustees plan to handle the Medical Faculty Associates if it does not break even by the end of FY 2024.

Will Alexander, the president of the Alumni Association, said a group of 10 students officials selected through a "competitive" process will engage with alumni through a new alumni engagement center after alumni asked to meet with more students during GW's outreach efforts. He said alumni donations are a little "behind," and the department is working on reaching out to "loyal" donors and asking them to con-

tinue financially supporting the University.

He said officials have collected \$8 million toward the annual giving program goal of \$13.5 million and are halfway to their goal of 18,500 donors, with donations from 11,000 alumni so far. He said there are about 61,000 "engaged" alumni donors, but Development and Alumni Relations staff are working to raise that number to 81,500 engaged alumni.

He said Giving Day, an annual 24-hour fundraising event in April, will shift from a one to two-day event running from noon April 4 to noon April 5 to attract more donors. He said Giving Day this year will focus on reaching 2,750 donors instead of the \$1 million goal set during the past two years to focus on rallying support from existing donors.

"We are working to try to improve this," Alexander said. "There's targeted outreach to folks who have given in the past to figure out where we can meet them and get them excited about continuing to renew their commitment and sponsorship dollars."

Officials said administrators have already started to prepare University President Ellen Granberg to replace Interim President Mark Wrighton

Speights said Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations Aristide Collins has been leading a "smooth" transition from Wrighton to Granberg after officials named her as the next president of GW in January.

Speights declined to comment on the Board's priorities for transitioning from Wrighton to Granberg and how the Board plans to work with Granberg on strategic planning.

Wrighton said he and other administrators will spend three to four days each month with Granberg to update her on the issues the University faces before she takes office July 1 when Wrighton's term expires.

After the public portion of the meeting, students, including members of GW Dissenters, a student group that advocates to end GW's involvement with the war industry, staked outside the executive session of the meeting, calling

on trustees to divest from war-profiteering companies with signs reading "GW enables war crimes." Students approached Speights and advocated for "total" divestment from war profiteering companies, but Speights did not make a verbal commitment, according to the GW Dissenters Instagram profile.

Vice Provost for Research Pamela Norris said at a Faculty Senate meeting last month that she has been working to increase University funding from Raytheon, an aerospace and defense company that GW Dissenters has pressured GW to divest from, according to their petition.

A group of 14 student organizations and 17 faculty members formed a coalition last month to urge officials to publicly disclose donors of one-time gifts that fund University initiatives they can choose to support. University spokesperson Julia Metjian said the Board received the transparency disclosure letter from The Coalition for Ethics and Transparency and will consider the letter's recommendations to publicly disclose GW's sources for funding.

District House, South Hall residents face recurring hot water outages

CADE MCALLISTER

REPORTER

MOKSHA AKIL

REPORTER

Facilities malfunctions have caused hot water outages in South Hall and District House for about three months with reports of cold water in the residence halls extending into last week.

More than 30 District House residents and more than 20 South Hall residents said they experienced “lukewarm” to “frigid” water temperatures from their showers and sinks as of last week, forcing them to either skip, shorten or relocate their routine showers during the outages. Some residents said the issue has persisted since fall semester, during a time when officials sent at least 10 emails with updates about efforts to fix broken parts in the residence’s irrigation system to temporary or failed avails.

In eight emails from Jan. 31 to Feb. 21, KC Costanzo, a GW Facilities customer engagement and service enhancement associate, updated South residents about a myriad of broken water system equipment in building-wide emails. The defective equipment ranged from faulty “booster pumps,” “shower cartridges,” “bleeding air,” “circulating pumps,” “boiler pumps” and a clogged “strainer.” In his most recent update Tuesday, Costanzo said Friday that staff replaced a broken “mixing valve,” a device that mixes cold and hot water to make tempered water, after shutting off the water for two hours Feb. 17.

“All three water heaters are online and functioning properly,” Costanzo said in a Feb. 6 email after announcing issues with South Hall’s booster pumps and shower cartridges. “We believe we’ve now pinpointed an issue with air present in the domestic hot water sys-

tem.”

But the following day, Costanzo said the bleeding air issue was not the entire cause of the outage, and updates about different faulty parts in South Hall continued for the next two weeks.

Community coordinators and GW Facilities staff sent six emails to District House residents between Nov. 28 and Feb. 20 alerting them of hot water outages in the building, but, since December, water outages have only affected residents on floors five through 12. Officials attributed the outages to issues with the building’s mixing valves.

About two weeks after GW Facilities staff shut off District’s water for five hours Dec. 2, coordinators said they replaced “machine parts” Dec. 15, which they said would “partially resolve” the issue when fixed. The coordinators encouraged District residents in an email to shower at Lerner Health and Wellness Center as an alternative.

The outages also caused Halal Shack, located in the basement of District House, to close for business Feb. 6, with staff placing a paper sign on the vendor’s fence alerting students of the outage.

University spokesperson Julia Metjian said GW Facilities staff have repaired all “identified” mechanical problems in District House in a Friday email. She said the recent hot water issues in residence halls have each had different causes and are not connected, but staff will start conducting “frequent operational checks” of all domestic hot water systems and keep stock of parts they identified as “common failure points.”

Metjian said staff continues to track water temperature and monitor FixIt requests for any “sudden spikes” in hot water issues. She said Campus Living and Residential Education “typically” offers the showers in Lerner as an alternative



LILY SPEREDELOZZI | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

Some residents said they still have to wait 15 to 30 minutes for the water to heat up, even though officials have replaced numerous parts in the building’s water system to solve the issue.

when residence halls are unable to offer hot water.

“Facilities has seen a significant downturn in the number of FixIt tickets in all residence halls that have had hot water issues,” Metjian said in an email Friday.

More than 20 South Hall residents said they experienced occasional hot water outages since the beginning of the spring semester. Some residents said they still have to wait 15 to 30 minutes for the water to heat up, even though officials have replaced numerous parts in the building’s water system to solve the issue.

Ryan Cedeno, a senior, ninth-floor South resident and a mem-

ber of the men’s soccer team, said he could not shower in his own bathroom because the water was “ice cold.” He said he traveled to the Mount Vernon Campus where he could use athletics facilities to shower.

“That’s like the only place I was able to get hot water,” Cedeno said.

A total of 52 District House residents said water temperature has changed frequently at some point during the school year on all building floors. About 34 of those residents, all of whom live on the top seven floors of the building, said they experienced a hot water outage last week, primarily over the weekend.

Jess Malobisky, a senior and fifth-floor District resident, said in the first half of the fall semester, the water would get “really hot” without setting it to the highest temperature, but halfway through the semester, the water then became “ice cold.”

Malobisky said the water was fixed over winter break but stopped heating up and became “lukewarm” during the first few weeks of February.

“Everybody, including people in my room, kept submitting FixIts,” Malobisky said. “But nothing was really done. We kept getting emails saying that they were addressing it, but nothing was changing.”



RACHEL SCHWARTZ | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

About 31 percent of undergraduates were pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in 2022, a roughly 16 percent jump from 2017, as schools spearheaded more than 10 new programs.

Enrollment in Bachelor of Science degrees doubles over five-year period

CAITLIN KITSON

ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

LANA KHALAF

REPORTER

The percentage of students pursuing Bachelor of Science degrees more than doubled over the past five years as GW’s schools rolled out at least 13 programs during the same time frame.

The number of students pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree leaped from 15 percent in 2017 to 31 percent of all students in 2022, according to enrollment data. Schools like the Elliott School of International Affairs, the School of Business and the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences spearheaded at least 13 new Bachelor of Science degree programs since 2017, according to a Hatchet analysis of degree offerings and enrollment data.

Provost Chris Bracey said the rise in the number of students in Bachelor of Science degrees resulted from changes to how officials categorize majors, the launch of new degrees, an increase in the number of students double majoring with a STEM major and a rise in the number of students interested in STEM disciplines.

“Students have organically migrated to STEM disciplines, resulting in a natural increase in B.S. degree recipients,” he said in an email. “This could be attributable to subject matter interest, job prospects or any number of considerations.”

Former University President Thomas LeBlanc proposed a controversial initiative in September 2019

to increase the number of students in STEM majors to 30 percent and decrease the total number of undergraduates by 20 percent, but officials declared the plan “obsolete” in November 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Faculty members who teach in the humanities and social sciences criticized LeBlanc’s plan in September 2020, saying the initiative could lead to “major” cuts to their departments.

The core STEM fields are engineering, biological and biomedical sciences, mathematics and statistics and physical sciences, according to the Department for Homeland Security. While Bachelor of Science degrees cover the core STEM fields, they can also apply to social sciences like political science and psychology, depending on the courses students take.

CCAS department chairs and program directors said they developed the Bachelor of Science degrees in response to heightened interest from students and a growing demand for STEM skills like computer programming and data science in the workforce.

David Rain, the chair of the geography department, said geography faculty launched the Bachelor of Science degree in environmental and sustainability science in fall 2021, which he said 34 students are currently pursuing.

Rain said faculty in the geography department launched the degree after noticing that some of their students were hesitant to engage with STEM content within the discipline while

other students were interested in the intersection between STEM fields like biology and geography.

Rain said students are increasingly drawn to pursuing Bachelor of Science degrees because possessing STEM-related skills, like data analysis, increases their job prospects after college.

Nearly 3.5 million new STEM jobs will need to be filled by 2025, according to the Society for Human Resource Management.

“We also get students who have taken lots of biology and physics, and they’re not afraid of science and they’re not afraid of formulas,” he said. “And we wanted to have something more for them, especially if they come in with AP credits. So we knew there was kind of a market need for the Bachelor of Science degree.”

Eric Lawrence, the chair of the political science department, said he chaired the committee that created the department’s Bachelor of Science degree in political science in 2016. The number of students pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in political science increased from one to 17 between 2016 and 2022, according to institutional research data.

“I’ve had a number of students who were double majoring in computer science or double majoring in stats, and they would say there was so little overlap,” he said. “That was really a challenge.”

Students pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree and a Bachelor of Arts degree at the same time must complete 150 credit hours, according to the University bulletin.

Wrighton vies for science association presidency, nearing end of GW tenure

FIONA RILEY

REPORTER

Interim University President Mark Wrighton is running to become the next president of the American Association for the Advancement of Sciences, a science organization aimed at advancing “science, engineering and innovation.”

If elected as the AAAS president in the ongoing general election, Wrighton would lead scientists, engineers, educators and researchers working to advance scientific initiatives and policy at the association after his interim term at GW ends July 1. Electronic voting opened last week and closes Tuesday before in-person voting takes place Sunday at AAAS’ D.C. headquarters.

But Wrighton is running against Willie E. May, the vice president for research and economic development at Morgan State University, in a spar to lead AAAS.

After four years of membership, Wrighton became an AAAS fellow in 1986. The association’s website states through his work as a chemistry department chair and the provost at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the chancellor of Washington University, St. Louis and GW’s interim president, Wrighton has contributed to the advancement of science, engineering, medicine, social science and public policy work, which will complement his potential role as the AAAS president.

“This work was made even more meaningful by supporting the development of new and diverse talent for important fields and

leveraging the University enterprise to serve a broader community locally, nationally and globally,” Wrighton said in a Feb. 17 blog on the AAAS website.

Wrighton declined to comment on the ongoing election, deferring to the AAAS blog post.

The AAAS holds a general election to select a president and members of the Board of Directors annually, according to their website.

The current president, Keith Yamamoto, is a cellular and molecular biologist and the vice chancellor for science policy and strategy at the University of California, San Francisco. Yamamoto prioritized diversity, equity and inclusion policies and expanded scientists’ understanding of the social impacts of scientific research.

Wrighton said his passion for educating and advocating for change in the scientific community aligns with the mission and values of AAAS.

Wrighton said with its “talented” members across the world, AAAS is “well-positioned” to effectively support efforts to address global issues like neurodegenerative diseases, cancer, infectious diseases and poverty.

“Advocating for stronger education and rewards in the workplace by AAAS should be a top priority to advance science and its application,” Wrighton said.

May, a chemist with more than 85 archival publications, has formerly served as the secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology in the U.S. Department of Commerce and

the director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

May said he hopes to advance diversity and anti-misinformation initiatives and guide government policymaking through his presidential platform, according to the AAAS website. The website states that if elected president, May would use AAAS to respond to misinformation and train scientists to participate in “meaningful” public discussions.

“I am excited about the prospect of working together in AAAS to advance science, engineering and innovation throughout the world for the benefit of all,” May said.

AAAS members said the association needs a leader committed to interdisciplinary studies and reforming the education system, and Wrighton’s past leadership experience could benefit him in this role.

Sudip Parikh, the chief executive officer of AAAS, said the organization looks for leaders with diverse experiences from different social backgrounds.

Parikh said members would like to see the new president advance the core goals of the AAAS while establishing trust and diversity among members of scientific communities.

“We would like to see someone with a compelling vision for the future of the scientific enterprise, who can inspire the mobilization of the scientific enterprise in service to society while achieving a new scientific excellence that is generated by people from all corners of society,” Parikh said.



AUDEN YURMAN | SENIOR PHOTO EDITOR

Wrighton said with its “talented” members across the world, AAAS is “well-positioned” to support efforts to address global issues like neurodegenerative diseases, cancer, infectious diseases and poverty.

D.C. traffic fatalities drop in 2022 after spike in prior year: MPD data

FIONA BORK
REPORTER

NATHAN VARNELL
REPORTER

Traffic fatalities in the District dipped last year, but local leaders said the decline does not reflect any major breakthroughs in Mayor Muriel Bowser's since-prolonged plan to eliminate traffic fatalities by 2024.

The Metropolitan Police Department reported 35 traffic-related deaths in 2022—a slight decrease from the 14-year high of 40 fatalities the year prior. But with five deaths so far this year compared to two reports of fatalities in the same period in 2022, local leaders said D.C.'s Vision Zero Initiative failed to achieve its "ambitious" goal of eliminating traffic deaths by 2024 in part because of inadequate traffic law enforcement and poor implementation of street design.

District Department of Transportation officials drafted D.C.'s Vision Zero Initiative in 2015, charting plans to eliminate city traffic deaths by 2024 by piloting protected intersections, installing 20 miles of bike lanes, publishing crash data through the Vision Zero database and expanding street safety legislation. Bowser updated the plan in October 2022, implementing protected intersections, bike lanes, median refuge islands, curb extensions and traffic signal adjustments to prevent crashes and protect alternative modes of transportation.

She said officials are preparing a "comprehensive refresh" of the plan in 2024.

"Our original target of achieving zero deaths by 2024 was ambitious and has not been without its challenges," Bowser said in a Vi-

sion Zero report in October.

Stephanie Tulowetzke, the manager of the Washington Area Bicyclist Association's Vision Zero Coalition, said the D.C. Council made "great progress" in reducing fatalities last year by passing Vision Zero-related bills like the Safer Streets Amendment Act of 2022 in December, which banned right turns on red lights. She said despite the drop, officials should focus on implementing more permanent "traffic calming" street designs like protected bike lanes that reduce vehicular space on the road and force cars to slow down.

"Any deaths indicate that the work isn't happening as quickly as it needs to," Tulowetzke said. "The acceptable number of traffic fatalities in the District is zero. So, that's the goal. That is what we're working towards. It's going to require an all-hands-on-deck approach."

DDOT officials did not return multiple requests for comment.

Carlos Enrique Christian, a 24-year-old GW graduate student, died in January after a car ran a red light and struck the vehicle he was riding in, according to the Washington Post. The Post reported Christian was a passenger of an Uber involved in the crash at 15th Street and Massachusetts Avenue. The driver of the car that struck the Uber was later charged with driving under the influence and reckless driving, according to The Post.

In August 2022, a truck fatally struck cyclist Shawn O'Donnell at the intersection of 21st and I streets on GW's campus. The accident occurred just days before the activation of a traffic light at the intersection, which residents and local officials demanded

for years and said could have prevented O'Donnell's death.

Jeffery Carroll, the assistant chief of MPD, said in their attempts to reduce fatalities last year, officers used enforcement mechanisms to slow down vehicular traffic, narrowing roadways and installing speed bumps and bike lanes to decrease last year's fatalities. He said while some of the main causes of traffic deaths are intoxicated or distracted drivers, high speed is a common thread among accidents that turn fatal, which increased during the pandemic.

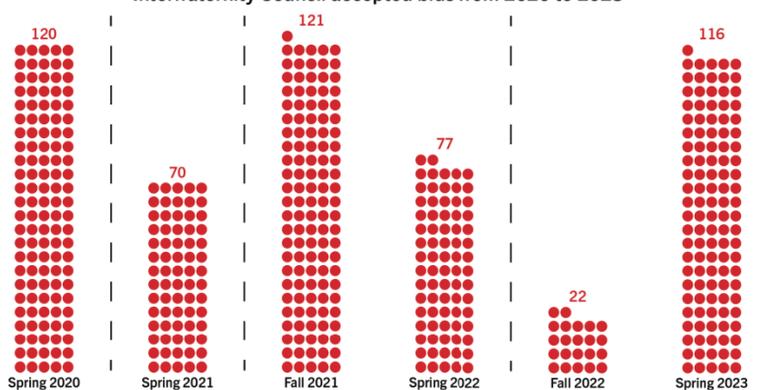
The Department of Transportation reported traffic fatalities spiked by 18.4 percent between the first half of 2020 and 2021. The chances a Virginia driver went at least 10 miles per hour over the speed limit rose by more than 50 percent from March to June 2020, compared to the same period a year earlier, according to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety.

Despite the increase in traffic deaths in 2023 compared to this time last year, Carroll said "it's too early" to identify the causes behind the jump.

Foggy Bottom and West End Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner Ed Comer said while the ANC works closely with DDOT and the National Park Service to resolve traffic safety concerns in the neighborhood. He said MPD must also increase short-term traffic law enforcement to address safety issues.

"I see many instances of people going through red lights, making illegal turns and those are problems," Comer said. "If you don't enforce them, they're going to continue or could get worse."

Interfraternity Council accepted bids from 2020 to 2023



NICHOLAS ANASTACIO | GRAPHICS EDITOR

IFC recruitment numbers near pre-pandemic participation levels

NIKKI GHAEMI
CONTRIBUTING NEWS EDITOR

Formal fraternity recruitment surged from last spring to this semester, edging closer to pre-pandemic participation levels.

Brian Joyce, the assistant dean of student life, said 156 students participated in recruitment activities this semester. This is an uptick from 130 participants in spring 2022 but still lower than 190 from the last round of in-person fraternity rush before the pandemic in spring 2020. Formal fraternity recruitment plummeted last semester when officials reinstated a policy requiring freshmen to complete 12 credits before rushing, dropping from 121 accepted bids in fall 2021 to just 22 a year later.

Joyce said nine Interfraternity Council chapters distributed 128 bids during spring recruitment, a 482 percent jump from last fall when 22 students earned bids. He said 116 students accepted bids this spring, a dip below the total of 121 students from fall 2021.

Joyce said the IFC extended the deadline to Jan. 28 for spring rush registration after "multiple" students reached out expressing interest in registration after the deadline passed.

"The council leadership, in consultation with their staff advisor, extended the registration deadline to allow for additional students to register and hopefully provide more interested students with the opportunity to participate in the process," Joyce said in an email.

Joyce said the number of new members among chapters ranged from one to 22, but he declined to share the figures for each chapter "out of respect" and to maintain privacy.

IFC President Jack Palaian said more freshmen participated in re-

cruitment this spring than last semester when officials reinstated the requirement for students to complete 12 credit hours before rushing. He said IFC dropped the 12-credit requirement during the first semester of in-person recruitment since the start of the pandemic so chapters' engagement and membership could rebound from its year-and-a-half virtual hiatus.

"Our chapters were suffering in terms of numbers and actually being functioning organizations," he said. "And so allowing freshmen to recruit in the spring, we saw a large increase in numbers."

Palaian said IFC hosted the first Open Night, a recruitment event for students to meet the fraternity chapters, in the University Student Center late last month instead of in fraternities' respective campus houses to consolidate and organize the meetings. He said the chapters returned to their houses for the second open rush night.

"The goal of all that was to allow them to make a more informed decision on the chapter they're joining, about their values and the people they met and the conversations they had," Palaian said.

Palaian said the most common reason for students not receiving bids this semester was a failure to meet chapter GPA requirements, which typically set a minimum 2.8 GPA. He said the eight-week process for onboarding new members, also known as "pledging," could be overwhelming for a student who is already struggling to maintain high grades.

"Our eight-week new member processes are a lot but they're rewarding," he said. "So we see that sometimes if you already don't have good grades, then it might be tough to make it

through that process without lowering them."

Palaian said an alumni representative for the national organization of the Jewish fraternity Alpha Epsilon Pi, which currently has no registered members at GW, is currently in the process of recruiting students to start a chapter at the University. He said they are in search of a student to fill the role of the "founding father," or the founder of a new chapter on campus.

"Founding fathers' organizations typically take on a much larger role," he said. "And so AEPi currently doesn't have a founding father, but they're working to get that."

Phi Gamma Delta President John Attwood said IFC's decision to host the first open night in the student center promoted more "equity" in the rush process, particularly for Phi Gamma Delta, or FIJI—the newest IFC chapter and the only one without a fraternity house on campus. He said FIJI participated in the second open night at the student center while other chapters used their houses.

He said IFC should apply more effort to help smaller chapters grow in future recruitment periods.

"It's very hard for small fraternities to grow on campus because the culture is a bit difficult for new fraternities," he said. "I would say they did a really good job with it this recruitment season, but I think there could be some improvements."

Kappa Sigma President Luke Sadowski said his chapter is "happy" with the 20 new members they recruited during formal recruitment. He said he appreciated the streamlined process for potential new members to meet chapters in the student center this year at open night.



ERIN LEONE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Stephanie Tulowetzke, the manager of the Washington Area Bicyclist Association's Vision Zero Coalition, said the D.C. Council made "great progress" in reducing traffic fatalities last year, voting to ban right turns on red lights.

Arctic permafrost thaw will cost billions in infrastructure repairs: CCAS study

MAGGIE O'NEILL
REPORTER

RORY QUEALY
STAFF WRITER

A Columbian College of Arts and Sciences professor found that Arctic regions will have to pay more than \$276 billion by "midcentury" to counter the effects of permafrost thawing due to climate change.

Dmitry Streletskiy, the study's lead author and an associate professor of geography and international affairs, said rising global temperatures are thawing the world's permafrost, a permanently frozen layer of soil found in polar regions like Alaska, Russia and regions of Canada where temperatures rarely exceed zero degrees Celsius. He said funds will be needed to repair sunken roads, railroads, airport runways and buildings that incur damages from floods and sunken foundations that thawed permafrost can cause.

He said the permafrost has remained frozen but not solid amid rising temperatures, destabilizing buildings and infrastructure built on the top layer of soil and raising construction costs for the Arctic regions. He said the world's reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, in line with the objectives of the 2015 Paris

Agreement, can reduce the permafrost-related cost by about \$100 billion.

"I hope this will be a first-quarter estimate that will help legislation, those who make budget decisions across the Arctic countries to understand better that permafrost is really important for consideration when moving forward with existing developments and infrastructure," Streletskiy said.

Streletskiy said researchers pulled temperature data from climate models to estimate permafrost temperature in the active layer—the soil layer that thaws in the summer and freezes in the winter—and locate Arctic regions where permafrost thaw would result in infrastructure damage.

The study analyzed the effects of permafrost thaw in areas of Alaska, northwest Canadian territories, Iceland, Norway, Finland and Russia, according to the study.

Streletskiy said researchers inferred that Arctic communities would need infrastructure rebuilt because of damage from flooding and sinking roads or buildings as permafrost thawed, so they recorded average repair costs for roads, railroads and buildings. Streletskiy said researchers studied various countries and projects to as-

sign the correct cost to each type of infrastructure.

He said he hopes the study will increase awareness about the impacts of permafrost thaw for Arctic governments, developers and investors from other parts of the world to determine the risks of operating on permafrost.

Streletskiy said awareness, education and training can push governments to react to permafrost degradation more quickly and limit costs from extensive damages because permafrost is already "suffering" from climate change due to continued thaw.

He said increased monitoring of permafrost temperatures in natural and industrial locations can determine where thaw is the greatest and reduce infrastructure damage and costs but current monitoring is "very limited."

"We unfortunately don't have enough data, but it's never too late to have this data for future generations," Streletskiy said. "If we start monitoring now, we can start to create a baseline for those who will deal with it in 20 or 30 years."

Experts in permafrost and the Arctic said engineering solutions like putting buildings on pilings, posts that support the foundation of a structure, can mitigate the effects of per-



LILY SPEREDELOZZI | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

The study analyzed the effects of permafrost thaw in areas of Alaska, northwest Canadian territories, Iceland, Norway, Finland and Russia.

mafrost thaw on infrastructure, but those solutions can be expensive for local officials and developers to implement.

Vladimir Romanovsky, a professor emeritus of the Geophysical Institute at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, said permafrost can be up to 90 percent ice, and when it thaws and turns to water, it runs off the landscape and erodes the surface. He said the eroding results in "substantial" damage to roads and "deforms" pipelines carrying

gas and oil that sit on top of permafrost.

Romanovsky said rising air temperature and surface disturbances, like wildfires, agricultural activities and construction, can thaw permafrost, which releases carbon and methane into the atmosphere and increases the greenhouse effect, harming hydrology, vegetation and wildlife.

He said solutions to protect infrastructure, like elevated buildings, are expensive but mitigate the effects of permafrost thaw.

Romanovsky said the study will likely draw attention to permafrost thaw within federal governments and help those living in areas with permafrost, like Alaska.

"The major impact will be upon people who are really less involved in producing the causes of this impact," Romanovsky said. "People who live in the Arctic have much less industry there, much less internal producing of greenhouse gases and burning fossil fuels."

LGBTQ+ experts, advocates discuss Black and queer education

CADE MCALLISTER
REPORTER

MOKSHA AKIL
REPORTER

Three panelists discussed the intersection of Black and queer history in an event Wednesday, with topics ranging from defining queerness to advocating for LGBTQ+ students on campus.

Panelists Leslie Hall, A.J. King and Jose E. Cadiz, who all have backgrounds in LGBTQ+ advocacy, discussed the intersection between the Black and queer communities and responded to recent conservative pushback on the teaching of Black queer studies like Florida's ban on Advanced Placement African-American Studies. The Graduate School of Education and Human Development hosted the virtual event, which was moderated by Assistant Professor Dwayne Wright, GSEHD's director

of diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives.

Cadiz, the director of the Intercultural Affairs and LGBTQ+ Resource Center at Howard University, said if he received a chance to respond to politicians who question the teaching of Black queer topics like Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, R-FL, he would encourage him to listen to LGBTQ+ people and their families about their experiences when they and their loved ones are given the chance to express their sexuality and gender identity freely.

King, the assistant director of the Multicultural Student Services Center and LGBTQIA+ Resource Center at GW, said his office created multiple initiatives, including the MSSC's events during Trans Awareness Week, to advocate for transgender and nonbinary students, who often face a historical lack of representation.

"We've got to be the

voice for those who don't have the opportunity to have a voice and make room so that they can eventually have a voice," King said.

King also spoke about what the word "queer" meant to him and how it challenges societal norms of gender and sexuality.

"For me, queer is really the deviation from heteronormative practices and gender and sexual expression that is viewed as the norm under patriarchy," Hall said.

Hall, the director of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Program at the Human Rights Campaign, said he personally does not identify as queer but instead as a Black, gay man and noted how generational differences are a part of this distinction. There is an ongoing debate in the LGBTQ+ community about the usage of the term and its past history as a harmful slur, sometimes with older generations treating it with



LILY SPREDELOZZI | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

A.J. King, the assistant director of the Multicultural Student Services Center and LGBTQIA+ Resource Center, spoke about what the word "queer" meant to him and how it challenges societal norms of gender and sexuality.

apprehension.

"I'm on the older end of the millennial spectrum,

and so queer is not, that wasn't it back then," Hall said. "But I truly under-

stand it as an umbrella, political term, and really a term of resistance."

Parkland shooting survivors remember victims, advocate for change

From Page 1

Yared remembers Montalto as the creative 14 year old who sat next to her in her art class, a Girl Scout and an avid reader of the Harry Potter and Percy Jackson books series. Years later, wearing a rose pendant necklace in memory of Montalto's middle name, Rose, Yared still thinks of Montalto's color guard performance when she hears "All I Ask" by Adele.

"She was just so nice," Yared said. "Legitimately the sweetest."

Yared said during this month's fifth anniversary of the shooting, she joined other Parkland shooting survivors and gun control advocates at Black Lives Matter Plaza to protest a lack of government action against gun violence with a bus blockade which concluded with a vigil at Trinity Washington University later that evening to remember the lives lost to the tragedy.

She said at the protest, she was able to speak about her shared ex-

periences with the mother of Joaquin Oliver, a 17 year old killed in the shooting, who was in D.C. for the protest. Yared later connected over brunch with a former Parkland teacher who now lives in the District.

"It's so nice to have the support from someone who gets it," Yared said.

Freshman Sinan

Kassim, a native of Parkland, said he was an eighth-grade student at Westglades Middle School at the time of the shooting, separated

from Marjory Stoneman Douglas by only a football field.

He said while his own friends from the high school weren't injured in the shooting, many of them lost close friends to the tragedy.

"It wasn't easy for any of us," he said. "But I think because of how strong we were as a community, so many of us turned our grief into action."

Kassim said following the shooting, he saw his hometown rally around gun reform, demanding an end to mass shootings nationwide. "We're a strong com-

munity, I'll tell you that," Kassim said. "We're a strong community. The way that they bounced back - I don't think anybody else could have done with what they've done and what we've done in that sense."

He said it shouldn't take mass shootings to prompt government officials to take action on gun control. Five years since the Parkland shooting, there have been more than 900 shootings in K-12 schools, according to data from PBS News.

"Five years after, I would have never thought that I'd see something like that," Kassim said. "And it really just saddens me."

"We're a strong community."

SINAN KASSIM
FRESHMAN

Faculty, students 'comfortable' with ending COVID mask mandate

From Page 1

Metjian declined to say what policy officials will implement to accommodate faculty who wish to keep the mandate in their classrooms, but Disability Support Services and the Office of Equal Employment Opportunity and Access will work to provide accommodations to individuals who request them.

More than 10 faculty members said the decision to end the mask mandate in classrooms comes at the right time, as a large number of their students already backed away from mask-wearing in their classes earlier this academic year. But faculty were split over whether or not they would continue to wear a mask in class, with some saying they would continue masking due to their personal or familial health concerns.

Hugh Agnew, a professor of history and international affairs, said he will continue to wear a mask in the classroom or in other group settings on campus because he is in an age bracket that puts him at an increased risk.

People between the ages of 65 to 74 are 4.9 times more at risk for COVID hospitalization than people between the ages of 18 to 29, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. People between the ages of 75 to 84 are 8.9 times more at risk, and people above the age of 85 are 15 times more at risk, according to the CDC.

Agnew said he will "encourage" his students to continue wearing masks in his class, saying they consistently helped him not catch a cold or contract COVID throughout the pandemic.

"It's not my position

to make a rule for the whole University, but I'm certainly going to encourage my students to continue to wear masks in any situation where it makes sense to them," he said.

More than 10 students said they feel "comfortable" with the classroom mask mandate ending as its classroom enforcement has remained low throughout the academic year.

Jovanna Abdou, a sophomore majoring in art history and history, said she supports the end of the mask mandate after it endured through the pandemic as well as officials' decision to continue recommending mask-wearing within the GW community.

"Having that choice is really important now to get us just back into the social experience of being at college," she said.

the order of the hippo
regrets to announce the passing of

Joseph Brand
hippo class of 1997

art for wisdom
science for joy
politics for beauty
and a hippo for hope

Free period products 'long overdue' on campus, students say

From Page 1

Diallo said although officials agreed to fund permanent dispensers, they previously resisted refilling them because of "logistical" issues with a contractor and suggested a student organization take up the responsibility instead.

"The University's commitment to a diverse and inclusive community requires it to redress inequities and to promote equitable outcomes through actions that enable everyone to flourish," Diallo said in an email.

Students and officials have been pushing for period product dispenser installation in campus bathrooms for at least six years after three student organizations partnered to offer products in District House, Gelman, 1957 E St. and Milken in 2017. Four years later,

the Student Association announced officials had installed additional dispensers in Duques, Ames and Innovation halls and Eckles Library.

Two-thirds of menstruating students have missed out on school time because they lacked period products, according to a 2021 PERIOD study. PERIOD, a global menstrual education and advocacy nonprofit, reported that one in four menstruating students could not access period products that year - a jump from one in five students in 2019.

Maddy Niziolek, co-president of GW RAGE, a reproductive autonomy and gender equity advocacy student organization, said GW's recent efforts to comply with the law are "long overdue."

Lawmakers in states like California, Delaware, Illinois, Maryland, Nevada, Oregon, Rhode Island and Washington have enacted similar leg-

islation mandating "local education agencies" provide free menstrual products in female restrooms since 2021.

Niziolek said free period product dispensers offer a solution to the "many" GW students who cannot afford to purchase "costly" menstrual products, a burden she said falls disproportionately on people of color and transgender and nonbinary students.

The average cost of period products per menstrual cycle is about \$20 a month, according to a January 2021 study by the National Organization for Women. Additionally, 22 states place a sales tax on period products as of September 2022.

"GW already provides other bathroom products like soap, toilet paper and paper towels," she said. "Why are menstrual products any different?"

HAVE YOU EVER SEEN THE STARS
ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SUN?



THE LAST HUMAN ON EARTH
IS BREAKING THE FOURTH WALL!

CHECK IT OUT AT
THELASTHUMANONEARTH.COM

-- ALL RIGHTS RESERVED --

WHAT THE UNIVERSITY WON'T TALK ABOUT THIS WEEK

If the Board plans to extend future loans to the Medical Faculty Associates p. 2

FROM GWHATCHET.COM/OPINIONS

"We need to have difficult, intimate discussions about the state of antisemitism today."

—SABRINA SOFFER on 2/23/2023

Opinions

D.C.'s laws belong to its residents, not Congress STAFF EDITORIAL

From go-go music to mambo sauce and early blooming cherry blossoms, plenty of things set D.C. apart from the rest of the continental U.S. There are even our license plates that proclaim "end taxation without representation." Living in the nation's capital has plenty of perks, but its lack of full local control isn't one of them.

Federal lawmakers atop Capitol Hill delivered a stern reminder of the limitations on the city's ability to govern itself earlier this month when the U.S. House of Representatives voted to reject D.C.'s revised criminal code and strike down a bill allowing noncitizens to vote in local D.C. elections. The Senate will vote on the resolutions nullifying the city's legislation in March, and President Joe Biden can either sign or veto them if they pass the Senate.

Congressional oversight of D.C.'s government as outlined in the Constitution makes the District one of a kind. The 1973 Home Rule Act – or home rule, for short – transferred power from the president and their appointees who governed the city to a locally elected mayor and the D.C. Council. But home rule still has its limits. Congressional review of the city's legislation and control over its budget remains in place, meaning any proposals that emerge from the Wilson Building have to endure a grueling examination on Capitol Hill.

But before Congress intervened, the D.C. Council didn't update the city's century-old criminal code and pass the Local Voting Rights Amendment Act without controversy. Mayor Muriel Bowser opposed revising the criminal code – which wouldn't come into effect until October 2025 – and vetoed the overhaul before the D.C. Council overrode her 12-1. And while D.C. has a large immigrant population, some city residents and members of Congress believe the right to vote in all elections should be reserved to citizens.

But federal officials have no business getting involved with the District's affairs. Congress should value the principle of self-government over the specifics of the policies it scrutinizes, yet Republican members of the



MAURA KELLY-YUOH | STAFF CARTOONIST

House and the dozens of Democrats who joined them are socking the city's democracy in the face. These naysaying politicians may be fulfilling their constitutional obligation to review D.C.'s laws, but they don't represent

the District, its people or their interests.

Members of Congress whose constituents live anywhere but in the District itself are acting as if they know what's best for D.C. And that's not for the first time, either. Rep.

Andrew Clyde, R-Ga., has expressed support for repealing home rule together, while Rep. Andy Harris, R-Md., blocked the District from legalizing the sale of marijuana in 2015. Clyde, Harris and the rest of their ilk have their own districts where they can try out these archaic, reckless policies. But in flexing their unchecked power over D.C. to score points with their constituents, they're following in the footsteps of white supremacist politicians who yearned to keep D.C. segregated in the 1930s and 1940s.

Worse still, there's no unified strategy among the District's leaders to stand up to congressional overreach. Bowser implored senators to keep their hands off D.C. in a tweet Thursday and demanded members of Congress "leave us alone" after the House vote – not exactly a valiant defense of democracy. And shadow Sen. Mike Brown, whose position exists to advocate for D.C. statehood, shifted the blame onto the city itself. The D.C. Council acted like a "petulant child" for sending legislation allowing noncitizens to vote before a conservative, Republican-led House, he told Axios earlier this month.

The House vote made clear that the fate of D.C.'s laws is a national issue. GW students from elsewhere in the U.S. enjoy the simultaneous benefit of living in D.C. and receiving democratic representation in our home states. So let's put democracy to good use on behalf of the city we call home.

If you believe in a D.C. governed by and for the people, pressure your members of Congress back home to support that vision, too. Find out how your representative voted and contact your senator before the Senate votes to nullify the District's laws in March. Where do they stand on home rule? Would they support D.C. statehood, which would avoid the issue of congressional review altogether?

We're fortunate to study, live, learn and work in D.C. Whether you're a catalyst for change or sentinel of self-government, help ensure the District's future belongs to the people who live here instead of 435 politicians they didn't vote for.

D.C. must treat homelessness as a systemic issue, not a disease

The removal of an encampment of more than 50 unhoused people from McPherson Square earlier this month is the latest in a series of encampment clearings showcasing the District's and federal government's inhumane approach to homelessness during the pandemic. With shelters nearing capacity and residents barred from "no-tent zones" in areas like parks and underpasses, do the city's leaders think unhoused people will simply find another place to live?

Jessica Rich
Opinions Writer

The National Park Service was in charge of clearing the McPherson Square encampment because the park is on federal land, but it remains D.C.'s responsibility to deal with the consequences of uprooting so many people. The city continues to ignore and misunderstand the underlying causes of homelessness, prioritizing encampment clearings over adequate social services.

Mayor Muriel Bowser has doubled down on encampment evictions even as city lawmakers cautioned against doing so after a bulldozer swept up a tent with a person still inside during the NoMa encampment clearings in 2021. Bowser's desire to eliminate homelessness by any means necessary ignores the complex situation facing each unhoused person in the District. If anything, it's jeopardizing the city's efforts.

More than 3,403

people – including 1,007 adults and children in 347 family households – are experiencing homelessness in the city on any given night. And roughly 86.4 percent of unhoused people in D.C. in 2020 were Black – a statistic that reflects how broader racial and socioeconomic inequities have continued to plague the District.

The city operates 10 low-barrier shelters that provide beds on a first-come, first-served basis and additional overflow shelter sites to account for increased demand during the winter. But D.C.'s shelters have already been under immense stress because of the pandemic, cold spells and the still-unaddressed needs of migrants to the city have. Even with the District's shelters consistently near capacity, the District has closed programs connecting unhoused residents to hotels and continued destroying unhoused encampments – actions that will only exacerbate homelessness.

While there are federal and local agencies tasked with addressing homelessness in D.C., something is not working. Non-governmental organizations like the D.C. Coalition for the Homeless, Friendship Place and Thrive D.C. support unhoused people to the best of their ability, but elected officials must ensure their local communities – both housed and unhoused – have the resources they need.

The city's \$19.5 billion fiscal year 2023 budget, an uptick from \$17.5 billion in fiscal year 2022, increased investments in public safety, housing programs and city services to address homelessness.

Yet thousands remain unhoused every night in the District, and no amount of funding will make up for leaders who shrug off the issues they face.

The desire for public safety is reasonable but demonizing unhoused people and encampments in the process is not. The city removed what some described as a perceived threat in McPherson Square with little regard for the people living there.

Unhoused people are not the enemy that the media or others might make them out to be. Homelessness is not a disease to be cured – it is a product of systemic failures, not personal flaws.

The city and non-governmental organizations need to work together to address the basic needs of D.C. residents, or at the very least, not make the lives of those already struggling more difficult. One unhoused individual is one too many, but federal and city agencies are removing people from the places they call home just a few blocks away from Foggy Bottom.

Empathize, speak up and determine what you can do to support your unhoused neighbors. Whether through volunteering at local organizations like Miriam's Kitchen or Coalition for the Homeless or raising awareness, we can all work to support those who surround us.

At a time when the fundamental right to shelter is increasingly difficult to come by, every person in D.C. deserves respect, dignity and empathy.

—Jessica Rich, a freshman studying human services and social justice, is an opinions writer.

GW must make contraceptives more affordable, accessible

College students have sex. Being sexually active comes with risks that GW's newly implemented emergency contraceptive vending machine can help alleviate.

Isabella Marias
Opinions Writer

Although the ability to purchase contraception on campus is not revolutionary, it is a necessary step forward. The vending machine provides students with emergency contraceptive pills in the University Student Center, but it can only adequately serve students as a more accessible alternative to the contraceptives sold in retail stores like CVS with further reforms. Due to the steep prices of the vending machine products and the student center's closure overnight, the vending machine is falling short of its true potential for the student body.

Readily accessible and affordable emergency contraception is essential in a post-Roe United States. To some students, D.C. is a safe haven for reproductive health care. While states with limited reproductive healthcare access like Arizona – my home state – Arkansas, Georgia, Idaho, Mississippi and South Dakota allow pharmacists to refuse to fill prescriptions based on religious or moral grounds, such actions are illegal in the District. The vending machine at GW provides students easy access to contraceptives, furthering the District's identity as a safe haven.

Students should not feel embarrassed purchasing the

morning-after pill or other forms of contraception, especially on liberal college campuses like GW. The contraceptive vending machine allows students to purchase contraception easily, comfortably and without facing potential assumptions about their sexual activity.

Because the vending machine is located in the student center, its availability is restricted to when the building is open between 7 a.m. and midnight. Not to ignore those that "get it on" during the day, most sexually active students students have sex late at night or early in the morning and must wait until the student center opens to obtain emergency contraceptives. Instead of waiting, however, students can go to the 24-hour CVS Pharmacy across the street from the student center. The vending machine needs to be a viable alternative to CVS to serve its purpose. Officials should install more in residence halls to make them accessible at all hours.

The other glaring issue with the vending machine is the cost of items. While the initial price of the contraceptive pills in the vending machine was \$25 when the vending machine was installed, they cost \$30 when I looked last week. CVS charges \$30 for Aftera Levonorgestrel, another generic emergency contraceptive pill. Unless GW lowers the prices for emergency contraception in the vending machine, there is no benefit to purchasing the on-campus contraceptives over those already available at CVS.

Tampons from the contraceptive vending machine cost \$1, while

they're free next door in the first basement level of District House. Providing tampons at a central campus location is critical to securing students' comfort, but only when they are at a competitive price or free. GW is supposed to offer free pads and tampons in campus bathrooms to comply with D.C. law and will install free period product dispensers in campus bathrooms to do so. So why charge students to purchase tampons from the vending machine?

Boston University charges \$7.25 and Northeastern University charges \$7 for emergency contraception – both more affordable prices than those at CVS and GW. Northeastern also offers free tampons. These prices are proof that it is not impossible to supply students with more affordable on-campus contraceptives.

Yet University officials have remained silent as to whether they will lower the costs of these items or if they will install contraceptive vending machines across campus – despite pressure from students to do so. GW's contraceptive vending machine currently acts as a publicity opportunity rather than a useful resource.

Creating an environment where college students can access reproductive health care without stigma is a success in and of itself, but GW's effort to provide students with reproductive care is not perfect. So until officials make the vending machine more affordable and accessible, make sure you have a plan to stay safe.

—Isabella Marias, a freshman majoring in political science and American studies, is an opinions writer.

The GW Hatchet

609 21st St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20052
gwhatchet.com | @gwhatchet
eic@gwhatchet.com
news@gwhatchet.com
opinions@gwhatchet.com
photo@gwhatchet.com
sports@gwhatchet.com
culture@gwhatchet.com
copy@gwhatchet.com
multimedia@gwhatchet.com

Jarrod Wardwell, editor in chief

Jaden DiMauro, managing editor*
Abby Kennedy, managing director
Nick Pasion, senior news editor
Zach Blackburn, senior news editor
Caitlin Kitson, assistant news editor
Erika Filter, assistant news editor
Faith Wardwell, assistant news editor
Grace Chinowsky, assistant news editor
Sophia Goedert, assistant news editor
Eoghán Noonan, contributing news editor
Iaime Salvosa, contributing news editor
Nikki Ghaemi, contributing news editor
Tara Suter, events editor
Ethan Benn, opinions editor*
Julia Koscelnik, contributing opinions editor*
Auden Yurman, senior photo editor
Danielle Towers, assistant photo editor
Jordyn Bailor, assistant photo editor
Lily Sperdelozzi, assistant photo editor

Rachel Schwartz, assistant photo editor
Nuria Diaz, sports editor*
Luke Wienecke, contributing sports editor
Clara Duhon, culture editor*
Julia Koscelnik, contributing culture editor - entertainment*
Nora Fitzgerald, contributing culture editor
Amanda Plocharski, video editor
Cristina Stassis, copy chief
Shea Carberg, senior copy editor
Lindsay Larson, assistant copy editor
Annie O'Brien, research assistant
Lydie Lake, research assistant
Rory Quealy, research assistant
Zac Bestwick, research assistant
Sarah Sachs, podcast host
Sejal Govindarao, podcast host
Max Porter, podcast host
Grace Miller, design editor*

Isabella MacKinnon, design editor
Maura Kelly-Yuoh, contributing design editor
Nicholas Anastacio, graphics editor
Ishani Chettri, web developer
Ethan Valliath, contributing social media director*
James Pomian, contributing social media director
Max Gaffin, contributing social media director
* denotes member of editorial board

Business Office
Eddie Herzig, business manager

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

Policy Statement — The GW Hatchet is produced by Hatchet Publications Inc., an independent, non-profit corporation. All comments should be addressed to the Board of Directors, which has sole authority for the content of this publication. Opinions expressed in signed columns are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the view of The GW Hatchet. All content of The GW Hatchet is copyrighted and may not be reproduced without written authorization from the editor in chief.

Cost — Single copies free. Additional copies available for purchase upon request.

Culture

THE SCENE

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH ART EXHIBITION
Wednesday, March 1 | Ellen Coolidge Burke Branch Library | Free
Visit an exhibit featuring artwork illustrating 216 women.

FBI VS. SECRET SERVICE CHARITY HOCKEY GAME
Saturday, March 4 | MedStar Capitals Iceplex | \$10
Attend a charity showdown on ice between the FBI and Secret Service

RELEASED THIS WEEK:

NEW SONG: "GOOD RIDDANCE" BY GRACIE ABRAMS

The Hatchet's top podcast picks to dive into niches you didn't know you needed

GW HATCHET STAFF

As the popularity of podcasts continues to boom, it's time to find your new go-to show because let's face it, there are better ones out there than The Daily and Call Her Daddy.

Podcasts can cover just about anything, from pop culture news to Irish poetry to the word of the day – and with a click of a button, the right episode can start your day off right, usher in a midday break or bring the night to a relaxing close.

Here are The Hatchet's top podcast recommendations for 2023:

"Poetry Unbound"

Nora Fitzgerald | Contributing Culture Editor

This podcast from Irish poet Pádraig Ó Tuama is a digestible introduction to the world of poetry. Delivered in episodes less than 20 minutes each on Spotify, Ó Tuama starts and ends each segment with the reading of a poem, dissecting each line in between readings. His picks range from classics by Emily Dickinson, Margaret Atwood and Rumi to more unknown, contemporary artists like Major Jackson and Molly Twomey. Ó Tuama combines stories from his personal life with biographical information

about the poets as he unpacks the deeper meaning of each poem. The podcast is therapeutic, offering advice on asking for help, overcoming loss and exploring sexuality through the lines of poetry.

"The Rewatchables"

Zach Blackburn | Senior News Editor

Whether you plan an annual holiday rerun of "When Harry Met Sally..." or marvel at "The Godfather" each time the epic pops up on cable, everyone has a movie they can't help but return to. "The Rewatchables," a weekly podcast hosted by a revolving array of writers and hosts from the Ringer Podcast Network, exists just to celebrate those endlessly enrapturing films. The panel of hosts discuss and analyze the movie of the week – which range from "Pitch Perfect" to "All the President's Men" – with more than 10 categories, like most rewatchable scene, best quote and half-assed internet research. Special celebrity guests regularly appear on the show with their own takes – like director Quentin Tarantino describing why he thinks "Dunkirk" was one of the best movies of the decade. The podcast is a fun and casual look at some of the most iconic



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ERIN LEONE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Podcasts can cover just about anything, from pop culture news to Irish poetry to the word of the day.

movies ever, so check out the pod to see if your favorite has been covered.

"Every Outfit"

Julia Koscelnik | Contributing Opinions Editor

Since launching their viral Instagram account @everyoutfitsatc in 2016, writer and director Lauren Garroni and designer Chelsea Fairless have amassed a following of more than 700,000 as they continue on their quest to document and dissect the

fashion on the "Sex and the City" franchise. Five years later, they launched the "Every Outfit" podcast to bring their niche fashion and pop culture commentary to a more general audience, discussing everything from award shows to fashion week to the latest viral pop culture moments. Listening to Fairless and Garroni chat feels like sipping a cosmo with your best friend, so tune in every Friday to debrief with your new besties.

"Behind the Bastards"

Tara Suter | Events Editor

If you're a history nerd, it can feel like you're always looking for a podcast that delves deep into compelling historical moments. It's easy to get sick of having a stuffy old professor tell you about the grand triumph of some random general's battle strategy 200 years ago, so sometimes you need to get your history fix in a more engaging forum. That is why you'll love "Behind

the Bastards," hosted by rebellious and punk-ish Portland-based journalist Robert Evans. The twice-weekly series examines the lives and exploits of people (or companies, organizations, etc.) whom Evans deems the worst in human history, ranging from cult leaders to Supreme Court justices, telling their story to the special guest. Evans' trademark sardonic humor and wacky advertisement transitions combined with his in-depth research make the series stand out from the crowded genre of history podcasts.

"Merriam-Webster's Word of the Day"

Grace Miller | Design Editor

Do you want to learn something new in two minutes every day? Merriam-Webster's daily word podcast is a great audio resource for those looking to broaden their vocabulary, featuring a different word each day. The brevity of the episodes – just two minutes each – make them the perfect listen for getting ready, eating breakfast or walking to class. By listening you'll be sure to both strengthen your current knowledge and branch out to explore what is only the tip of the language iceberg.

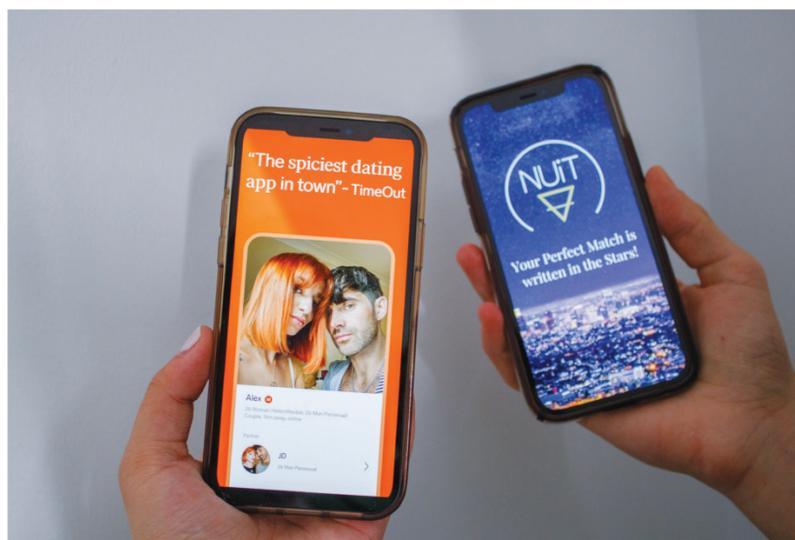


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY LILY SPEREDELOZZI | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

From an app that matches you based on astrological compatibility to one that lets your friends do all the hard work for you, these apps take an out-of-the-box approach to dating.

Out-of-the-box dating apps guaranteed to elevate your love life

NORA FITZGERALD
CONTRIBUTING CULTURE EDITOR

The world of dating apps is wider than you think, and maybe your soulmate – or one night stand – is hiding just beyond the reach of your Tinder, Hinge or Grinder.

Maybe your ideal matches aren't liking you back, the conversations aren't progressing or you're straight out of swipes. Whatever the case is, it may be time to branch out to the more niche side of dating apps. From an app that matches you based on astrological compatibility to one that lets your friends do all the hard work for you, these apps take an out-of-the-box approach to dating.

Here are five dating apps you should check out to find new, potential love interests:

For the veggie connoisseur:

Looking for someone who you can make out with and not worry about what animal product they may have recently consumed? This app is for you. Veggly is designed specifically for vegetarians and vegans looking to find a partner who shares their values. The app has more than 1 million users and proudly boasts the 3 million "Vegmatchers" made on the service. If you've been eager to bond over your love of Beyond Meat, or find someone who will hold you accountable to your new diet, get chatting on Veggly. Meet your match on Veggly for a passionate hookup without the linger-

ing taste of fried chicken.

For the pet lover:

If you need your future partner to understand that they will always come second to your pet, then check out these two apps. Dig is a dating app designed to help dog lovers – and their dogs – meet. Dig users can bond over their shared love of mutts and escape the awkwardness of having a hookup who happens to be allergic to dogs, or worse, a dog hater. Tabby is a similar app but for cat lovers. The app unites feline fans, serving as a way to meet a hookup, or maybe a future cat co-parent. Let's be real here – identifying as a cat or dog person says a lot about a person's personality. Establishing someone's fondness for one or the other as a prerequisite for joining the app helps weed out some of the matches you probably wouldn't get along with anyway.

For the astrological expert:

It's possible that your most recent failed relationship didn't work out simply because your star signs are not compatible. To prevent that from happening in the future, check out NUI, an app that factors astrology into the equation of finding your potential partner. The app analyzes your sun, moon and rising star signs in order to properly pair you with a match. Matching based on astrology can help you find someone who fits your needs, moods and per-

sonal style. This way, you can avoid that one sign it just never seems to work out with, and skip to a match from the stars.

For someone with great friends:

Maybe your problem with dating isn't the other person, it's you. Wingman is a dating app that removes you from the equation and lets your friends matchmake for you. From start to finish your friends make your profile on your behalf, swiping on and chatting with potential love interests for you. It's possible that your problem with love is that you pick the wrong people, so give your friends a shot at choosing for you. Take the backseat in your own love life, and give your friends a chance to wow you with their matchmaking skills.

For the adventurous type:

If dating has gotten boring, maybe it's time to spice things up and rethink your monogamy. Feelds has one goal in mind: threesomes. No need to be single to join this app – couples looking to explore can create a couples account which interacts with the singles accounts on the app. You and your partner can spend time bonding over who your ideal third is while curious singles also get to travel outside of their comfort zone. Embrace your wild side and give this app a chance to open up your world and your bedroom door.

Everything you need to know about the District's first nonalcoholic bar

KATHLEEN GIANNI
REPORTER

Binge Bar introduced the concept of a zero-proof bar to D.C. when it opened earlier this month, packing hotspot potential in the community for those looking to have fun, minus the alcohol.

Owner Vergie Arandid opened the bar on the H Street Corridor as a comfortable spot for people seeking nonalcoholic drinks, whether they are sober, in recovery or just aren't the biggest fan of the substance. The menu is worth the 20-minute drive from campus, with drinks ranging from the Blueberry Smash cocktail (\$14) to 0.0 red wine (\$10/\$40) and Filipino-inspired snacks, like the buko fruit salad (\$6) and lumpia rolls (\$7/\$14), celebrating Arandid's Filipino heritage.

During her own journey to sobriety, Arandid recognized a need for an alcohol-free space that cultivates a similar social bar environment, particularly when she went out to support friends working in restaurants and nightlife. When the space became available to her in 2020, she decided to bring her idea to life and open the first alcohol-free bar in D.C.

"The inspiration actually is sort of an extension of my lifestyle," Arandid said. "I am going to be six years sober this year. There are so many places where you can get alcohol, but here what we offer is that nonalcoholic twist, a healthier option, an

extension of someone's lifestyle."

Binge Bar opened at a fitting time as nonalcoholic beverages like nonalcoholic beers, wines and spirits have gained popularity, more than doubling their market presence since 2018. As health and wellness movements throughout the country encourage alcohol consumers to cut back on liquor to take better care of themselves, Gen Z has shown less interest in drinking alcohol than previous generations.

Set with eight tables throughout the floor and eight seats along the bar, the dining room fills up quickly, so booking a reservation in advance is wise to guarantee a spot.

Binge Bar divides its drink menu up into cocktails, beers, wine and ready-to-drink canned beverages like craft cocktails and wines. The cocktail menu, created by Arandid and head mixologist Brandon St. Peter, offers nonalcoholic alternatives to drinks like margaritas, Moscow mules and spritzes all priced at \$14. The beer list includes beers from breweries like BrewDog (\$7) and Stella Artois (\$8). The wine list, ranging from \$9 to \$10, offers a variety of both red and white options. The ready-to-drink beverages consist of cocktails (\$14) and gluten-free wine (\$8) from canned beverage businesses Mixoloshe and Lali.

Aside from the eye-catching menu items, the shining star is the menu of

nonalcoholic drinks, which set Binge Bar apart from a traditional D.C. bar. The vast options of cocktails, beer and wine served at Binge Bar are all 100 percent zero proof, yet they still capture the traditional alcoholic taste through substitutes of wine and spirits.

As a fan of anything mango, I first opted for the Mango Mintz Spritz cocktail (\$14). The beverage, served in a small plastic cup, consists of muddled mint, mango puree and alcohol-free sparkling wine, topped with a mint leaf that contrasts the bright yellow color of the drink. The prominent sparkling wine flavor mimicked an alcoholic taste that complemented the sweet and fresh flavor of the peach and mint.

For a less costly option, the beer and wine drinks range from \$9 to \$10. I ordered a glass of Ariel Chardonnay (\$9), a wine that our server accurately likened to a light kumquat flavor. While I am not exactly the best fit for reviewing wine, I found the chardonnay as a nearly perfect replica of the regular alcoholic version through its dry taste, eliminating the potential for a hangover in the morning.

Binge Bar presents a new option to the District where people can escape the alcohol-centered atmosphere throughout the city. The incomparable drinks, snacks and environment at the bar make exploration into non-alcoholic drinks smooth and inviting.



JORDAN TOWIN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The vast options of cocktails, beer and wine served at Binge Bar are all 100 percent zero proof, yet they still capture the traditional alcoholic taste through substitutes of wine and spirits.

Sports

GAMES OF THE WEEK



LACROSSE
vs. American
Saturday | 1 p.m. EDT
The Colonials look for their first win after a three-game losing streak.



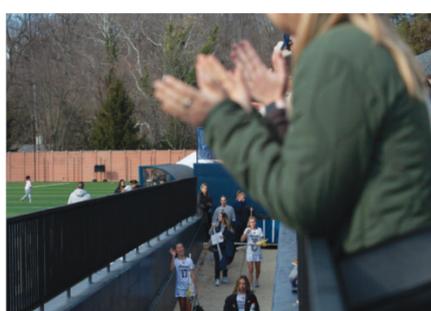
MEN'S BASKETBALL
vs. VCU
Saturday | 4:30 p.m.
GW looks for a victory in their final game of the regular season before heading to the A-10 Championships.

NUMBER CRUNCH **.365**

Lacrosse shooting percentage in the first three games of the season, closing in on their five-year average of .392

Athletes in Action: Lacrosse launches into season opener

EMMY NUMANN | PHOTOGRAPHER



Swimming and diving win A-10 Championships

NURIA DIAZ
SPORTS EDITOR

For the second straight season, men's and women's swimming and diving are Atlantic 10 Champions, continuing a dynasty of regional dominance for both programs.

The championship crown earlier this month marked the seventh conference title in the past eight seasons for the men's team. Three of the titles were earned in the last four years under Head Coach Brian Thomas, who was named men's coach of the year at the meet. For the women's team, this marks their second-consecutive title for the first time in program history after winning their first conference title in the 2019-20 season.

The men's team tallied 783 points, which was 275.5 points higher than the second-place team George Mason. The women's team led the championship with 794.5 points, 315 points more than the second-place team—breaking 14 school records across 19 events.

Here is a recap of the championship:

Men's program

The GW men earned 26 medals with 12 golds and set three A-10 records, one A-10 meet record and 21 program records. GW had 18 student-athletes score double-digit points against the other team's single-digit points. Graduate student Marek Osina scored the most



FILE PHOTO BY ALLISON ROBERT | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The A-10 swimming and diving championships took place in Geneva, Ohio over the course of four days where each program competed in 40 events.

points for the Colonials, holding an impressive performance with two gold medals and three podium finishes at the meet.

Osina's impressive performance at the championship started with a record-breaking first-place win in the freestyle relay alongside junior Karol Mlynarczyk, freshman Preston Lin, redshirt junior Djurdje Matic and freshman Ganesh Sivaramakrishnan, beating the A-10 record in the 200-yard freestyle medley relay for a gold medal with 1:25.69.

The men's team kicked off the first day of the championship with an early lead of

80 points with a gold medal in the night-one relays and a new A-10 record for the men's 200-yard medley relay. Mlynarczyk, Lin, Matic and Sivaramakrishnan beat the A-10 record in the 200-yard medley relay, taking the gold and setting a new record with 1:25.69 in the event.

Matic set the A-10 record, taking first place in the 100-yard butterfly in a lightning-fast 45.76 seconds with Matic finishing just .24 seconds ahead with a silver medal. Whelan recorded a 46.79 time, taking the bronze medal.

Sophomore Philip Moldovanu took third place in the men's 500-yard freestyle with a

4:23.41 time, and the men finished in all top-three spots in the 400-yard IM with Connor Rodgers winning the gold medal in 3:46.25 and breaking the A-10 record.

Women's program

The women's program locked down 27 spots on the podium, winning 12 gold medals, setting an A-10 Championship meet record and three overall A-10 records throughout the meet to win the second consecutive conference crown.

The Colonials kicked off the first day by breaking the A-10 record for the women's 200-yard

medley relay in the first race and showing no signs of stopping with 17 student-athletes scoring in double digits. Freshman Phoebe Wright won the meet's Most Outstanding Rookie Performer award after receiving a gold medal in the 200-yard freestyle, bronze medals in the 500-yard freestyle and 200-yard backstroke and posting a 53-point performance.

Freshman Ava Topolewski kicked off the final night by breaking the A-10 1650-yard freestyle record with 16:27.78. Her time shattered GW's record for the event, which alumni Bambi Bowman set in 1995.

Women's basketball's second-straight loss drops program to seventh seed in A-10

NURIA DIAZ
SPORTS EDITOR

Women's basketball came undone in their last game against University of Massachusetts Amherst, falling 84-61 in their final regular-season game Saturday and dropping from the third to seventh seed.

The Colonials (17-12, 9-7 A-10) failed to stop the league's top-scoring Minutewomen (25-5, 14-2 A-10) and the explosive showing that kicked off halfway through the first quarter. The Colonials are now ranked No. 7 in the Atlantic 10 Championship, where they will skip the first round of play.

Freshman guard Nya Robertson led GW with 15 points, four assists and three turnovers followed by senior guard Nya Lok with 10 points, two assist and one steal to keep the Colonials steady in

the game.

The game kicked off scoring with a jumper and 3-pointer from the Minutewomen, who made all seven attempted 3s while the Colonials shot 4-8 from the long range in the first 10 minutes of the game. An early substitution for the Colonials that brought Robertson to the court gave GW its first 3-pointer 18 seconds after the substitution to make the score 11-10.

The Colonials' offense became sluggish in the seventh minute where they fell into a two-minute-long scoring drought while the Minutewomen went on an 8-point run to bolster their lead. A 3-pointer by Robertson ended the dry spell to kickstart a final 5-point run for GW that would keep the team at 29-16.

The Minutewomen extended their lead to 13 in

the 10th minute with a jumper from graduate student forward Sam Breen.

The Colonials cut the Minutewomen's lead to 9 points in the second quarter, but UMass responded with a 9-1 run to send them into the half with a 17-point lead. Junior guard Asjah Inniss stepped up in the second quarter, scoring 5 points that included a fast break 3-pointer after a steal to make the score 46-29.

UMass would remain out of reach for the Colonials with a 53 percent shooting percentage in the second quarter but would decrease their 3-point shooting to 0 percent after the Colonials' defense kept the team off the 3-point line.

The Minutewomen continued their dominance in the second half, shooting 60 percent from the field and increasing their lead to 25

points at the end of the third quarter. GW would be unable to make up the differential for the remainder of the game, only decreasing it by 2 points.

The Colonials made a run in the fourth quarter, where they outscored the Minutewomen 19-17, but were unable to make a meaningful dent and ultimately fell 84-61.

Questionable shot selection and a delayed defense could not keep the Minutewomen from taking advantage of the open paint to take home a final win on senior day ahead of the A-10 Championship, consolidating their first-seed status.

The Colonials will travel to Wilmington, Delaware March 1, where they will take on the victor of the matchup against No. 10 seed Duquesne and No. 15 seed Loyola Chicago in the second round of the A-10 tournament.

GW Club Baseball looks to continue undefeated fall season with No. 1 rank

MARK RAPPAPORT
REPORTER

NURIA DIAZ
SPORTS EDITOR

Heading into the spring season, GW Club Baseball is gearing up to take the field as one of the highest-ranked teams in Division III after going undefeated with a 6-0 record during the fall semester without a coaching staff or baseball facilities.

The River Horses are currently ranked No. 1 in the National Club Baseball DIII with 48 points, beating out Atlantic 10 Conference rivals Duquesne and George Mason universities in the winter preseason poll. The club team is led by team captains senior Brandon Lee, junior Noah Chin and senior Drew Dorsey who plan game logistics while leading the team's practices due to a lack of resources distributed to club teams, leaving them without a coaching staff.

Lee said players take control over their own routines with a "choose your own adventure" format where each player can concentrate on their personal areas of improvement to balance fun with high performance.

"So I think with club baseball, it's just kind of a breath of fresh air to all of these baseball players who want to play baseball but don't want coaches breathing down our backs and yelling at us to do the things that we already know that we need to do," Lee said.

The club has been practicing once a week at The St. James facility in Springfield, Virginia every Tuesday at 9 p.m. with other club sports, where they focus on the basics like swings, grounders and pitching while also playing impromptu touch football games to continue developing team chemistry and performance during the

offseason.

Lee said the team struggled with pitching in the fall slate since the team has been lacking pitchers in the past years and placed "random" players on the mound to throw pitches. He said this year the team was able to build a "true" pitching staff due to newer players showing an interest in just pitching for the remainder of the season.

He said the captains have also created a more organized system for selecting the starting line up and preparing for games by having players over the night before and air-playing the starting lineup for all the players to see while listening to music.

Chin said one of the biggest challenges the baseball club has faced is GW's lack of baseball facilities since they cannot access the baseball field used by the varsity team. He said the club team has to be really



JORDYN BAILER | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

The club team's captains plan game logistics while leading practices due to a lack of resources distributed to club teams, leaving them without a coaching staff.

creative with the amount of room they have by moving practices by the monuments

and the Vern softball fields when the weather is nicer. "I feel like when the

weather starts getting nicer, it is a really good time to come out and watch," Dorsey said.