

# GW



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# GW MAGAZINE SPRING 2015

A MAGAZINE FOR



On April 14, 1865, Abraham Lincoln wore this silk top hat to Ford's Theatre. It's part of an exhibition of objects from that night, on display this spring at the theater's Center for Education and Leadership.

## FEATURES

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GW prepares to open the doors to a museum anchored by renowned collections of textiles and D.C. history. With it comes opportunities for scholars on campus and the world over. / **By Julyssa Lopez** /

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One-hundred-fifty years ago, Abraham Lincoln celebrated the end of the Civil War with a night at the theater—a night that ended in the care of his GW physician. / **By Marc Leepson, BA '67, MA '71** /

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A new species of natural-born spies, discovered by biology professor Scott Powell, could help answer one of evolution's most puzzling questions. / **By Lauren Ingeno** /

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In time for Mother's Day and Father's Day, we asked alumni parents to take us back to the day that changed everything. / **Edited by Danny Freedman, BA '01; Illustrations by Minhee Kim** /

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Illustration by Ben Wiseman



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**GW**  
**TODAY**





## A Museum Joins the Mix

GW almost always feels abustle: The swoop of high-flying construction cranes, the stream of students and VIPs in and out of buildings, and the whir of motorcades and ambulances are the norm. Their beats are the rhythm of life here. But even in a place with so much going on, it's a rare month when ribbons are cut on two new buildings, each of which is squarely intended to alter the state of education at the university and to become more than just an address on the D.C. map.

The March 4 grand opening of Science and Engineering Hall—featured in the cover story of our last issue, which can be found online at [magazine.gwu.edu/research-capital](http://magazine.gwu.edu/research-capital)—inaugurates a building that, in many ways, has become the symbol of the university's research ambitions. And on March 21, the university takes the wraps off a new museum complex. It opens as the home of tens of thousands of objects comprising two world-class collections: One looks through the lens of textiles to tell the story of five millennia and six continents, and the other is a trove of maps, documents and other materials related to the founding and evolution of the nation's capital.

It takes a bit of *chutzpah* to open a museum in this town. But it seems clear there is enormous potential for this to add to the landscape—for faculty members and scholars beyond GW, of course, but also for students. As Julyssa Lopez reports in her article, students have had a crucial role in the museum's opening through their coursework, from designing exhibitions to plotting the social media strategy. And they're already at work on future projects.

As curators advance toward opening day, the oh-so-delicate movement of artifacts joins the bustle on campus. With that comes the opportunity of new life for—and new learning from—some very old things.

*Danny Freedman, BA '01*  
MANAGING EDITOR

WILLIAM ATKINS

MANAGING EDITOR  
Danny Freedman, BA '01

ASSISTANT EDITOR  
Ruth Steinhardt

CONTRIBUTORS  
*GW Today* staff: Keith Harriston (senior managing editor), Rob Stewart (managing editor for multimedia) Brittney Dunkins, Lauren Ingeno, James Irwin, Julyssa Lopez

INTERN  
Rebecca Manikkam, GWSB '17

UNIVERSITY PHOTOGRAPHER  
Jessica McConnell Burt

PHOTO EDITOR  
William Atkins

DESIGN  
GW Marketing & Creative Services

ART DIRECTORS  
Dominic N. Abbate, BA '09, MBA '15  
John McGlasson, BA '00, MFA '03

PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY  
Steven Knapp

VICE PRESIDENT FOR EXTERNAL RELATIONS  
Lorraine Voles, BA '81

ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT FOR COMMUNICATIONS  
Sarah Gegenheimer Baldassaro

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR EDITORIAL SERVICES  
Rachel Muir

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*"This is the big one. This is the one that really counts."*

**CHEMISTRY PROFESSOR J. HOUSTON MILLER, ON THE EFFECTS OF THAWING PERMAFROST (PG. 28)**

# GW NEWS

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## BUILDINGS

# Launching a New Era of Research and Learning

The university celebrates the grand opening of Science and Engineering Hall as a milestone and a mark of ambition and promise. ▶



▶ The official opening of Science and Engineering Hall, a decade in the making, arrived in a flurry of green and red lasers beamed across the building's grand lobby in a light show before more than 300 guests.

From the administrators, faculty members and donors who eagerly anticipated this day, to the freshmen who will inhabit the building for the next four years, the March 4 ceremony marked a turning point for the university community.

"With this new building, we are indeed making history," GW President Steven Knapp said.

Dr. Knapp cited a 2006 study from the National Academy of Sciences, which argued that U.S. students were falling behind in STEM disciplines, posing a threat to the economy. Since then some have contended the report paints an overly pessimistic picture.

"So it's debatable, it seems, whether U.S. high schools, colleges and universities are producing enough scientists and engineers to fill the needs of U.S. employers," Dr. Knapp said. "But what is not debatable is the need, both nationally and globally, for citizen leaders who understand how science works. The most pressing issues that face us in the world today all involve science and technology."

When planning for SEH began 10 years ago, GW had not built a new research facility on its Foggy Bottom Campus since the completion of Ross Hall in 1973.

Chemists competed for room in cramped, carpeted labs. Engineers turned Tompkins Hall storage rooms into makeshift workspaces. Researchers outsourced projects to universities with more advanced facilities.

"But those aren't the reasons why you do

something like this. We needed something more compelling," Board of Trustees Chair Nelson Carbonell said, recalling preliminary SEH discussions. "We realized that GW had been a place that had a history of science that was really unparalleled, at least in this area, and perhaps in many other places in the world. And we needed to retake that place."

Indeed, more than half a century after physicist George Gamow helped develop the Big Bang theory at the university, GW has climbed into the top tier of research schools, as counted by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education.

Now, SEH allows the university to expand its research profile further, with 500,000 square feet of teaching and research space and state-of-the-art labs and equipment.

At the opening ceremony, National Academy of Sciences President Ralph Cicerone noted that faculty depend heavily on obtaining external research funding.

"The facilities provided at GW, here in SEH, will enable GW researchers to compete more effectively for such grant funds," he said. "The remarkable progress of GW in the quality of its instruction and research over the last few years is a great achievement."

GW Trustee Madeleine Jacobs, BS '68, former CEO of the American Chemical Society, has toured the building four times. "I can't get enough. Every time I come here I learn something new," she said. "... This building gives undergraduates the set up to do really meaningful research that is going to make a huge difference in their careers."

—Lauren Ingeno

For more on SEH, visit [seh.gwu.edu](http://seh.gwu.edu).

ENGINEERING

## GW Receives \$30M Software Licensing Grant

GW engineering students will have access to design tools used throughout the global manufacturing industry, thanks to a \$30 million grant in software licenses from Siemens, officials announced in March.

The Siemens product lifecycle management, or PLM, software is used to design, develop and manufacture some of the world's most sophisticated products in a variety of industries, including aerospace, automotive, medical devices, machinery, shipbuilding and high-tech electronics.

"We are deeply grateful to Siemens for so generously providing these invaluable tools to our faculty and students," GW President Steven Knapp said.

Siemens has worked with the university on a variety of programs, including recruiting graduates to build a talent pipeline in U.S. industries, fostering interest in STEM fields through the Siemens Competition in Math, Science and Technology, and executing energy efficiency and building automation projects.

"As the university expands its focus on research, Siemens is pleased to grow our relationship with GW to include leading-edge technology and training initiatives," said Eric Spiegel, Siemens USA president and CEO. "Access to our software will help to better prepare these students for high-quality STEM and advanced manufacturing jobs."

As software plays an increasing role in the future of manufacturing, the School of Engineering and Applied Science will incorporate PLM software into student course work and research related to computer-aided design, engineering simulation, creative engineering design, digital manufacturing and manufacturing management.

The Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, for instance, will use Siemens PLM software to design off-road vehicles and rockets for collegiate competitions.

"Grants like this, which support student innovation, create their own ripple effect for good, as some of the ideas they spawn eventually make their way out to the larger society in the form of better engineering products," said SEAS Dean David Dolling.



THE ARTS

# Dancing the Dream

**As sophomore Ben Sanders worked to find his footing at GW, he was also embarking on a professional career on stage.**

With his sandy blond hair and long-limbed figure, sophomore Ben Sanders has a perennially youthful disposition. His face is often drawn in a pensive expression, and he emotes a particular thoughtfulness when he's performing.

These qualities explain why, at only 20, he has a professional contract with the Dana Tai Soon Burgess Dance Company, the eponymous group led by the chair of GW's Department of Theatre and Dance. As a result, Mr. Sanders has toured throughout Surinam and performed at the Kennedy Center, the National Portrait Gallery and other venues in Washington.

He started dancing in plays at his high school in New Oxford, Pa., where he worked with dance teacher Dawn Glass, who shared the stage with Foxy Brown and Justin Timberlake. When he began the process of selecting a university to attend, Mr. Sanders visited GW and met Mr. Burgess, MFA '94. It would mark the beginning of a mentorship that Mr. Sanders envisions lasting throughout his career.

Mr. Burgess, who launched his company in 1992, is known for creating some of the city's most fluid, thought-provoking modern dances that explore his mixed ethnicity and Korean ancestry.

"Dana is such a legend here in the dance world, and he brings his expertise to everything he does," Mr. Sanders says.

As a freshman, he enrolled in Mr. Burgess' course Dance in Community Settings. The class requires that young dancers complete internships to learn about the back end of the dance business. Mr. Sanders asked whether he could work at the professor's own company through the class and started an internship in which he handled administrative tasks, archived videos and helped backstage. Mr. Burgess also gave Mr. Sanders the opportunity to practice with

the company.

Mr. Sanders remembers the first time he entered the studio, shaky with nerves.

"I had watched these dancers from backstage, thinking, 'I want to be that, I want to do that.' When I entered the room for the first time, I definitely felt intimidated," he says.

That memory of an anxious freshman is a far cry from the dancer who looks completely at home late one Friday night at a DTSBDC rehearsal, where the company was preparing for performances at NASA and D.C.'s Kreeger Museum. Mr. Burgess is standing in the center with his head cocked to the side as dancers try out new movement phrases.

Mr. Sanders rehearses one piece with Connie Lin Fink-Hammack, a principal dancer. They're at ease with one another—when he forgets a step, she bursts into giggles and starts from the beginning to give him a second try.

There's another bond that ties the sinewy dancers together: Ms. Fink-Hammack is a

professor at GW. Several other members of the company have degrees from the university, and one is finishing a Master of Fine Arts degree.

"They've been through everything I'm feeling as a student," Mr. Sanders says. "If I come to practice really stressed out, they calm me down."

In addition to helping him grow as a dancer, Mr. Sanders' experience with Mr. Burgess has given him a bird's eye view of running a company, which he hopes to do someday.

"This gets me a little bit ahead of the game—I'm just so lucky that Dana has involved me in his work," he says.

— **Julyssa Lopez**

For more on this story, including video of Ben Sanders dancing, visit: [gwtoday.gwu.edu/dancing-dream](http://gwtoday.gwu.edu/dancing-dream).



**Sophomore Ben Sanders performs in *Homage* at the Kennedy Center.**



CAMPUS LIFE

# Student Health Hub Opens

**A nearly 18,000-square-foot centralized location for health services was celebrated at kick off of “Healthy GW” initiative**

The university launched an initiative in January aimed at renewing the focus on health, wellness and safety, and marked the occasion with the grand opening of a student health services center on the Foggy Bottom Campus.

The initiative, called Healthy GW, unifies wellness efforts across the university, such as the GW Parenting Initiative, the Urban Food Task Force and Smoke-Free GW. Its launch was timed to the opening of the Colonial Health Center, a nearly 18,000-square-foot wellness hub on the ground floor of the Marvin Center. The new home for GW’s medical, mental health and health promotion and prevention services features more than 50 offices, exam rooms and labs. The center opened the week before the launch event and served more than 400 students in its first week.

The center replaces the separate offices held by the University Counseling Center,



**The university celebrated the opening of the Colonial Health Center in January, during the launch of a broader initiative, Healthy GW. The notion of creating a centralized hub of student medical and mental health services, said Dr. Knapp (inset), originated with student leaders.**

Student Health Service and the Center for Alcohol and other Drug Education.

“Locating our student health and counseling services together in the heart of our campus was a terrific idea that came to us from our student leaders themselves,” GW President Steven Knapp said at the event. “I can’t think of a more powerful way to launch our university-wide Healthy GW campaign.”

The ceremony also debuted the Peer Support Program, an initiative led by the Student Association to reduce the stigma around seeking mental health and other wellness services. In developing the idea, SA President Nick Gumas said that he researched comparable programs at peer universities and interviewed more than 100 student organizations. — **Brittney Dunkins**

FACULTY

# Oxford Development Economist Joins Elliott School

After directing Oxford University’s Poverty and Human Development Initiative for eight years, distinguished development economist Sabina Alkire joined the Elliott School of International Affairs this semester as the Oliver T. Carr Jr. Professor in International Affairs.

Dr. Alkire will hold positions at both GW and Oxford before starting her singular appointment at the Elliott School in fall 2016.

She has gained global recognition for her work on multidimensional poverty measurement and analysis, development economics, the measurement of freedoms, and human development. In addition to her work at the University of Oxford, Dr. Alkire served as a research associate at Harvard’s Global Equity Initiative from 2003 to 2014.

In 2010, Dr. Alkire was recognized by *Foreign Policy* magazine as one of its “Top 100 Global Thinkers” for her work with Oxford researcher Maria Emma Santos and GW professor James Foster on the development of a multidimensional measurement for poverty—one that considers a constellation of factors beyond income, such as education, health and housing. Their Multidimensional Poverty Index is used by the United Nations and some individual countries to gain a more nuanced perspective on poverty.

Dr. Alkire’s arrival will “substantially enhance GW’s intellectual firepower and elevate GW’s institutional standing in the field of economic development, which is both a global and a GW priority,” Elliott School Dean Michael E. Brown says.

Former Board of Trustees Chair Oliver T. Carr established a professorship in his name to recruit leading scholars in international affairs.

The Elliott School has made three other senior faculty appointments in the past year: Christopher Kojm, former chairman of the National Intelligence Council, who returned this fall; Allison Macfarlane, chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, who began leading the Center for International Science and Technology Policy in January; and Hugh Gusterson, an internationally recognized anthropologist. ☐



ONLINE

## New Free, Public Online Courses Offered in Spring

The university in April will begin offering two signature online courses that will be free and open to the public in an effort to continue to expand GW's online presence for a general audience.

These massive open online courses, or MOOCs, will center on a core curriculum of video lectures, symposia and interviews, written materials, interactive assignments and other supplemental components.

One course, *The Past, Present and Future of the Federal Reserve*, will trace the influence of the United States' central banking system. Narrated and moderated by School of Media and Public Affairs Director Frank Sesno, it was developed as a collaboration among professors from GW's Law School, School of Business and

Columbian College of Arts and Sciences. It also will incorporate material from the series of lectures delivered in 2012 by then-Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke. The course will be offered in cohorts several times over the next two academic years.

The other course, *Business in a Political Age*, will be taught by Mark Kennedy, director of the Graduate School of Political Management. Focusing on the interweaving paths of business and political interests, students will explore case studies, taking the roles of major players in current and historical events. Unlike the Federal Reserve class, it will be offered continuously, with students signing up at any time for access to the website.

"These are courses that no other university is offering and perhaps no other university could offer," says Paul Schiff Berman, vice provost for online education and academic innovation.

 For more information, visit [online.gwu.edu](http://online.gwu.edu).

**"I like to think that SPEAK has a ripple effect. By sharing my story, it helps others realize they're not alone, and then they share their own stories."**

— **Laura Porter**, a senior in the School of Media and Public Affairs, discussing the importance of talking about her struggles with bulimia. She is president of the organization SPEAK GW (Students Promoting Eating Disorder Awareness and Knowledge), which organized a weeklong series of events on campus in February aimed at sparking a dialogue about healthy body image and raising awareness of the resources available.

# SUMMER *at* GW

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**NURSING**

## Hopkins Vice Provost Named Dean of School of Nursing

Pamela R. Jeffries will be the next dean of the School of Nursing, the university announced in January. Dr. Jeffries, who in 2013 was named the inaugural vice provost of digital initiatives at Johns Hopkins University, has been a professor of nursing there since 2009.

“Dr. Jeffries is a nationally recognized innovator with a strong background in research and extraordinary expertise in the application of technology to teaching and learning,” says GW President Steven Knapp. “She understands the complexities of 21st-century health care and has the vision and experience to guide our School of Nursing as it prepares the next generation of nursing and health care leaders.”

Dr. Jeffries will begin at GW in May. She succeeds Jean Johnson, founding dean of the nursing school, who retired in December.

“Dr. Johnson has built a strong foundation on which the faculty and I can now continue to develop an outstanding school of nursing in the nation’s capital,” Dr. Jeffries says. “It is a challenge I eagerly accept, and I look forward to sharing the rewards of success with faculty and students.”

Prior to her appointment as a Johns Hopkins vice provost, Dr. Jeffries served as the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing associate dean for academic affairs and vice dean of faculty from 2009 to 2013. In that role, she led the school in its online education initiative, launching more than 40 courses and two online master’s degree programs.

Dr. Jeffries is a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Executive Nurse Fellow and a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing. In 2012, she was inducted into the Sigma Theta Tau International Nurse Researcher Hall of Fame. 



**Pamela R. Jeffries**



**GW volunteers assembled paracord bracelets for active service military members at a service project site run by Operation Gratitude.**

**SERVICE**

## A Day to Serve and Remember

Several hundred members of the GW community didn’t spend their Jan. 19 federal holiday watching TV, sleeping late or avoiding homework. Instead, they worked to better their communities and to honor a civil rights icon with the university’s annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service and Leadership, the opening event of a weeklong, university-wide celebration of Dr. King’s life and legacy.


“This is a day when we serve, but ... it’s also a day we reflect on how far we’ve come and how far we have yet to go to make the dream a reality,” said Amy Cohen, executive director of the university’s Center for Civic Engagement and Public Service. “We’re here today to recommit ourselves to peaceful, effective and concerted action” to combat lasting injustices, she added.

In speeches at the

beginning of the day, guests Charlene Drew Jarvis, a former D.C. Council chair and former president of Southeastern University, and U.S. Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-D.C.) drew parallels between Dr. King’s era five decades earlier and the context in which young American activists are working today.

“King’s issues are still scrawled across the front pages today,” Ms. Norton said. “I ask you not to live in the past—not to become hero worshippers of the great heroes of the past...[but to] seize this moment.”

On-campus service projects included Operation Gratitude, where volunteers made paracord survival bracelets for active military members, and Cards for Hospitalized Kids. About 200 volunteers in the Marvin Center’s Grand Ballroom helped assemble literacy materials like books and flashcards for Jumpstart, which helps prepare preschool-aged children in underserved communities for kindergarten.

Off campus, volunteers sorted furniture for donation at A Wider Circle, participated in beautification projects and worked with the D.C. Office of Aging. Meanwhile, a GW-student led team at a Jumpstart event coordinated by the Corporation for National and Community Service was joined by President Barack Obama, first lady Michelle Obama and their daughter Malia, who helped create literacy kits for donation. 

VOLUNTEERS: WILLIAM ATKINS / JEFFRIES; COURTESY PAMELA R. JEFFRIES





**GW volunteers in Indian River County, Fla., lift the framework of a house into position during their service project with Habitat for Humanity.**



**GW community members spent an “alternative break” on service trips to Costa Rica, Guatemala, Florida, Los Angeles, New Orleans, Nicaragua and Puerto Rico.**

**SERVICE**

## Putting Winter Break to Work

**On service trips, GW community logs 7,000 hours of volunteering**

The first thing you notice about the eco-bricks is the color. Plastic bottles of assorted tints, each crammed with recycled material—potato chip bags, pieces of plastic—sit atop a layer of cement in a neat row, arranged like a soft-drink variety pack on a conveyor belt.

Then comes a second layer of cement, applied over the bottles. Another row of plastic, another layer of cement. Gravel, rocks, dirt and sand are packed into the crevices between the bottles. Eventually the bricks take shape, becoming benches, trash cans, even the walls of buildings.

It is a cost-effective, rudimentary, eco-friendly engineering project, says Emma Vitaliano, a graduate student in the Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration and co-leader of a GW

Winter Alternative Breaks trip to Los Santos, Costa Rica.

Recycling plants in the area aren't very efficient, she says, so using bottles in another way helps cut down on pollution and wasted water. The mix of plastic, dirt and other materials reduces the amount of cement needed by up to 25 percent. The eco-bricks are a wildly popular method of construction in Latin America.

About 175 students, faculty and staff amassed nearly 7,000 hours of service in tackling issues of sustainability, community health, housing, poverty, education and urban restoration on service trips to U.S. and Latin American communities during the university's winter break.

Six of the seven sites were return visits for GW, including the trip to Costa Rica, where volunteers built a sidewalk and explored organic farming techniques on a trip focused on sustainability and community health.

“I like how well-balanced the trips are,” Ms. Vitaliano says. “We're not just doing service without realizing why we're doing it. We're learning why exploring these ideas is important for our own lives.”

— James Irwin

**“We're not just doing service without realizing why we're doing it. We're learning why exploring these ideas is important for our own lives.”**


The Andy Warhol screen prints “Queen Elizabeth II” (background) and “Mao” (inset) were part of the Warhol Foundation gift to the university.



IN PICTURES

## Warhol Prints Light Up Brady Gallery Exhibition

Andy Warhol’s screen prints of Mao Zedong and Queen Elizabeth II currently hang alongside works by artists such as Fernando Botero and Barbara Morgan in the Brady Art Gallery exhibition *Luminaries: Portraits from the GW Permanent Collection*. The exhibit, which continues through April 24, features six newly acquired prints by Mr. Warhol in addition to selected works from the gallery’s permanent collection that capture icons of dance, politics and film.

The six prints by Mr. Warhol are a recent gift as part of the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts’ effort to show works previously unseen by the public. In 2008, the Brady Gallery also received approximately 150 original Polaroid photographs and gelatin silver prints by Mr. Warhol. 

QUEEN ELIZABETH II: WILLIAM ATKINS / MAO: THE ANDY WARHOL FOUNDATION FOR THE VISUAL ARTS INC.



INITIATIVES

## For Adults with Autism, Linking Passions to Jobs

For any high school graduate, the stress of leaving home, choosing a career path and starting life on one's own can feel daunting. But for a teenager with autism spectrum disorder, life after high school is often a dead end. More than 50 percent of young adults on the autism spectrum were not employed or enrolled in college within two years after graduation, according to a 2012 national study published in the journal *Pediatrics*.

In an effort to help confront the gaps in transition services for these young adults, a conference at GW in December brought together parents, school leaders, employers, advocates and researchers. The event was sponsored by the Milken Institute School of Public Health and GW's interdisciplinary Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders Initiative.

"For us at a university, I think it's important to realize that we're about getting the best out of people," said Board of Trustees Chair Nelson Carbonell, BS '85, whose 20-year-old son, Dylan, has autism. "For people with autism, they have as much to contribute as everybody else. So we need to find a way to help them do that."

In 2013, Mr. Carbonell and his wife, Michele, funded a study by researchers at GW's Center for Health and Health Care in Schools. The Autism Transition Project set out to study transition services in area schools and interview parents.

Four mothers who participated in the project spoke at the event, saying that building relationships and being assertive with teachers and school officials are key. But they also emphasized the need to think early on about a child's future beyond school. Parents should also pinpoint their child's passions and align them with a career path, they said.

One of the mothers, Melonee Clark, turned her 22-year-old daughter's obsession with popcorn into a business. Ms. Clark paired her daughter with a career counselor and bought her a professional popcorn maker, which she uses to sell salty treats at churches and community events.

Ultimately, "it's all on you," Ms. Carbonell told the other parents. "Never let your vision of your child be set by anyone on the outside." —**Lauren Ingeno**



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*Rhubarb*

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SUSTAINABILITY

## Garden Varieties Giveaway

Who knew that a more sustainable campus would also mean a more edible one?

That's been the effect of the Division of Operations' Edible Landscaping Program, which has replaced some flower plantings around Foggy Bottom with vegetables and herbs that are harvested and offered to the GW community in seasonal giveaways. The initiative was started three years ago by Grounds Operations Manager Noel Gasparin and horticulturist Matthew Flack in an effort to maximize the use of green spaces at the university. This year, the grounds team is expanding the program to include even more veggies, such as okra and artichokes.

Above is a look at the giveaway totals for 2014, in addition to small quantities of rosemary, thyme, pineapple sage, curry and lavender. For details on upcoming giveaways, write to [talktogw@gwu.edu](mailto:talktogw@gwu.edu). —**Rebecca Manikkam, GWSB '17**

HOPS: @ISTOCK.COM/INDIGOLOOTOS / PEPPERS: BARTEK ZYCZYNSKI / BASIL: @ISTOCK.COM/CAZIOPEIA / LEMONGRASS: @ISTOCK.COM/OKEA / RHUBARB: @ISTOCK.COM/FOTOGAL

HEADLINERS AT UNIVERSITY EVENTS

# GEORGE WELCOMES

## “What’s not to like—except her views on the law.”

U.S. Supreme Court Justice **Antonin Scalia**, deadpanning in February alongside Justice **Ruth Bader Ginsburg** at a Smithsonian Associates event at Lisner Auditorium. In a conversation moderated by NPR legal correspondent Nina Totenberg, the high court’s “odd couple” discussed—in a volley of rapid-fire humor—their longtime friendship and divergent legal views.

## “Now is not the time for a victory lap, but the time for racing ahead.”

**Anthony Fauci**, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, part of the National Institutes of Health, speaking in December to students at a School of Medicine and Health Sciences event on HIV and AIDS. More than three decades after the first recorded cases, life expectancy for those with the virus has improved dramatically. Still, the federal government says almost 14 percent of the 1.2 million Americans living with HIV are unaware they are infected.

“I feel this negotiation is sort of like being a grandparent. You get some of the fun parts, but you hand it over to someone else at the end of the evening.”

European Union Ambassador to the United States **David O’Sullivan**, jokingly referring to his new role on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership after previously serving as director general for trade of the European Commission. He spoke in November at a conference hosted by GW’s Regulatory Studies Center.



**Antonin Scalia**

**Ruth Bader Ginsburg**

**Anthony Fauci**

**David O'Sullivan**



**“The Kremlin is entitled to its own opinion, but not to its own facts.”**

Voice of America Director **David Ensor**, speaking in January at GW's School of Media and Public Affairs about his organization's efforts to fact-check and provide evidence that counters inaccurate information disseminated by Russian President Vladimir Putin.

“If you stick around long enough you just keep bumping into the same people. And you all lie and say, ‘God you have not aged a bit—you look so great.’ The only one in this room about whom that is true, by the way, is Frank. What is with this guy?”

Former Assistant Secretary of State **Torie Clark, BA '82**, joking about longtime friend and School of Media and Public Affairs Director Frank Sesno, while on campus to promote her book, *A Survivor's Guide To Washington: How to Succeed Without Losing Your Soul*. The January event was sponsored by SMPA and the Graduate School of Political Management.

**“We cannot exist with ISIS.”**

Iraqi Ambassador to the United States **Lukman Faily**, speaking at an event in February sponsored by the Elliott School of International Affairs' Middle East Policy Forum. Despite numerous complexities and challenges in Iraq, he told students, the country will continue to work with international partners to wage war against the terror group.

“It led me to embrace the idea that maybe the most meaningful way to look at American history is to start with families.”

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist **Nick Kotz**, discussing how work on his book *The Harness Maker's Dream* changed his perspective on documenting life, news and history. He spoke in February as part of the English department's Jewish Literature Live course.



**David Ensor**

**Torie Clark**

**Lukman Faily**

**Nick Kotz**

# AT A GLANCE

## APPLE CEO TIM COOK TO SPEAK AT GRADUATION

Apple CEO Tim Cook will deliver the university's commencement address on May 17 and will be awarded an honorary doctorate of public service. Mr. Cook, whose invitation was suggested by GW students during the nominating process, has led Apple since 2011 and was the *Financial Times*' Person of the Year for 2014. In 2012, he was named one of the 100 most influential people in the world by *Time* magazine. In addition to Mr. Cook, both Anthony S. Fauci, director of the National Institute of

Allergy and Infectious Diseases at the National Institutes of Health, and Carole M. Watson, PhD '78, former acting chair of the National Endowment for the Humanities, will receive honorary degrees.

## LAW DEAN TAKES HELM OF ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN LAW SCHOOLS

Law School Dean Blake D. Morant was installed in January as president of the Association of American Law Schools, an organization that comprises 178 member law schools and seeks

to advance excellence in legal education. "Legal education is evolving," Mr. Morant says, and at an accelerated pace since the economic downturn. "Law schools all over the country are responding to that in different ways, and we're looking forward to highlighting that this year."

## GW TOPS PRINCETON REVIEW'S 'BEST INTERNSHIPS'

GW provides students the best internship opportunities among 650 U.S. colleges and universities surveyed by the Princeton Review. The university bested 24 schools for the top rating in the "Best Schools for Internships" category, announced in February with the release of the 2015 edition of "Colleges That Pay You Back: The 200 Best Value Colleges and What It Takes to Get In."

A survey of GW's Class of 2013 revealed that more than 65 percent of undergraduates put their studies into practice at internships or co-ops around the world.

## GW BOARD APPROVES 2015-16 TUITION RATES

The Board of Trustees approved tuition rates for the 2015-16 academic year in February, guaranteeing no tuition increase for returning undergraduate students. Incoming undergraduate students will see a slight increase, a portion of which will help fund university health resources. It marks the eighth consecutive year that the university has held increases in the overall cost of attendance for incoming students—which includes tuition, fees, room and board—to less than 4 percent.

## ELLIOTT SCHOOL MAKES 'FOREIGN POLICY' TOP 10

In its triennial list of the best international relations schools, released in February, *Foreign Policy* magazine named GW's Elliott School of International Affairs in the top 10 for its undergraduate and master's degree programs. GW's doctoral program in political science also made the top 20. The list is informed by a survey of 1,615 international affairs scholars from 1,375 American universities. The survey is a collaboration between the magazine and the College of William & Mary's Teaching, Research and International Policy project. [en](#)

**Giselle Ruzany, BA '97, an adjunct dance faculty member, rehearses for the Maida Withers Dance Construction Company's March 19 premiere of *MindFluctuations* at Lisner Auditorium. The group, which celebrated its 40th season this winter, was founded by longtime Professor of Dance Maida Withers, who serves as artistic director. The production highlights the intersection of dance and technology by projecting the emotions and expressive states of dancers—equipped with special headsets—on stage in the form of 3-D art.**



SHAUN SCHROTH



# ...On Finding a Job in 2015



Rachel Brown

*The economy may be recovering, but finding and keeping employment can be as tough as ever. Rachel Brown, assistant provost for university career services, offers some tips for entrants into the job market—whether recent graduates or explorers in mid-career.*

## Tell us about career services at GW.

On the most basic level, we help students and alumni get to the next level in their career and professional development. Whatever your question—“What do I major in?” “Where should I get an internship?” “Where can I go next?”—we can meet you there and help you move forward. If you’re a student with absolutely no idea what you want to do, we can help you identify your skills and interests. If you do know what you want to do, we can help you take the next step, like getting your resume market-ready. And if you are, say, an alumna interested in moving in a different direction, we can help you refresh and revitalize your job search.

We also meet once a month as the universitywide Career Services Council, comprising career services directors, faculty and students from across GW, to identify issues that are relevant to the populations we serve. The Office of Alumni Relations is part of that council, and that’s a great first point of

## “THE NO. 1 THING FOR ANYONE ... IS TO MAKE A GOAL ABOUT BUILDING YOUR PERSONAL NETWORK AND STICK TO IT.”

contact for alumni who may be looking for the right person to connect with on campus.

## What are some things employers are looking for in new hires?

One major thing is comfort with ambiguity. Stability is not as guaranteed as it once was. I don’t say that to be dire; I think understanding that can be a comfort. One of my favorite interview questions is “Tell me about something you had to learn quickly.” Giving specific examples that prove you are adaptable is key, because that is a guarantee: Whatever your position, you will need to learn new things quickly and often if you want to keep growing and learning and developing.

## What is the most important step for job seekers to take?

The No. 1 thing for anyone at any point in their career is to make a goal about building

your personal network and stick to it. There are so many ways to meet people now. There are 30,000-plus alumni in the GW Alumni Association LinkedIn group, for example. You can search by employer, by region, by major at GW, fill in the blank, either to reach out to new people or to rekindle connections.

That’s one way to learn about opportunities that you may never have known existed. There are a million paths out there.

Following on that, keep in touch with the people you’ve met. Again and again we hear that from employers—they’ve met great people at networking events and so on, but there was no follow up. And that is such a missed opportunity. It’s understandable that people don’t; we get busy, we forget. But that’s what I mean about making a goal and sticking to it. You put it in your calendar—“I’m going to write a thank-you note” or whatever—and you just do it.

## What’s the most important takeaway for people intimidated by the job search?

First of all, it’s OK to be unsure. The National Association of Colleges and Employers has introduced new language for students entering the job market: We say that we’re trying to capture “first destination outcomes.” I really like that language, because it is not a lifetime that we’re talking about. With the job market as it is, the economy as it is, the world as it is, we know students may change careers five times, let alone jobs. So we just want to look at “Where are you going right now?” It takes a little of the pressure off.

## Last spring, career services received a \$5 million gift from trustee Mark R. Shenkman, MBA ’67, and his wife, Rosalind.

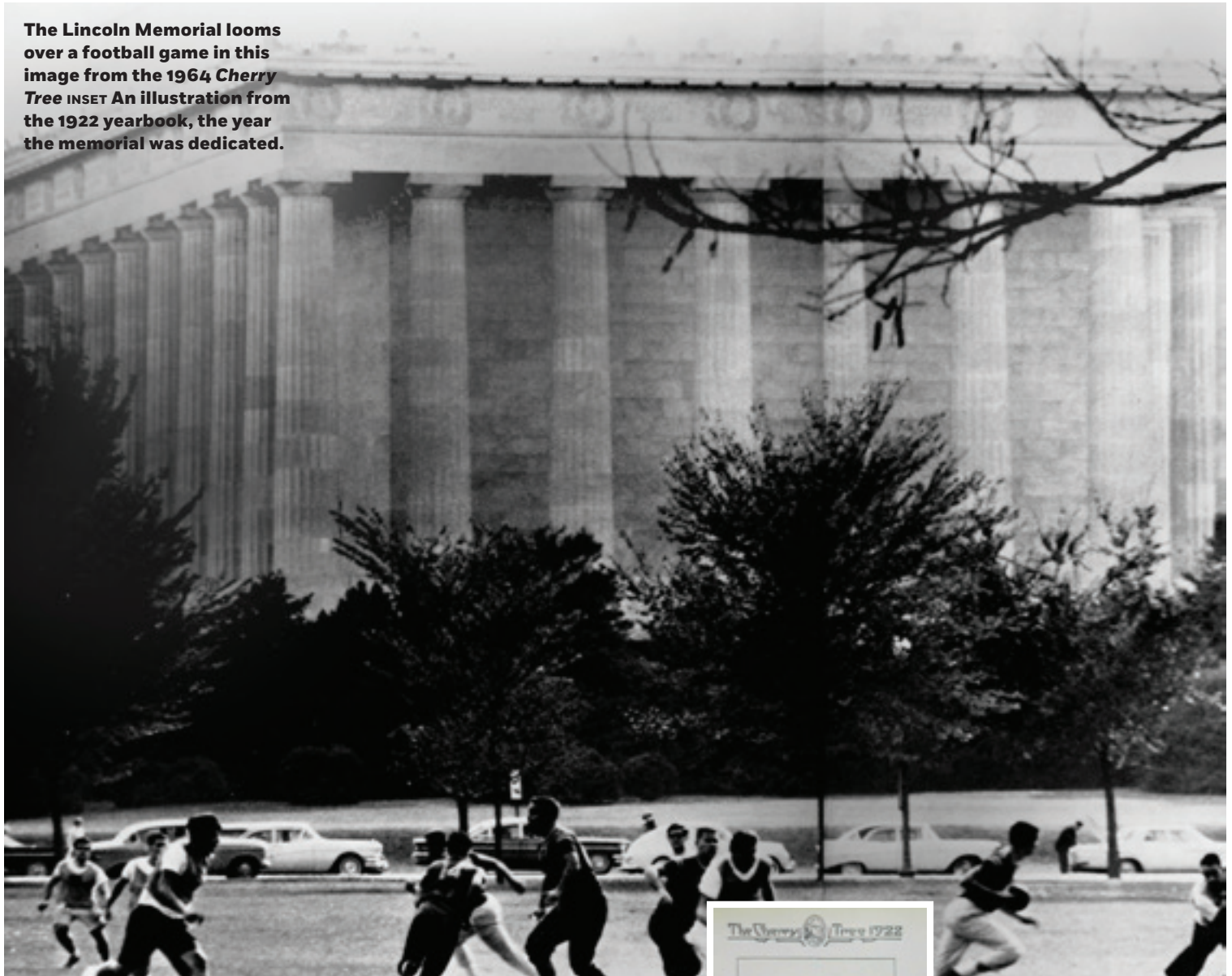
## What has been the impact of that?

It’s such an amazing gift because it allows us to think bigger. We’ve been working closely with the Career Services Council and others to identify priorities and target populations, and we can do that with fewer constraints.

For example, this spring we’re rolling out travel vouchers for military and veteran students, a population that includes a fair amount of distance-learning students. We can enable them to come to Foggy Bottom to participate in our career fair, a mentoring event or a foreign policy event. And we’ve been able to expand the New York Trek program—which has been taking business school students to New York to interact with various employers—to students outside the business school. It has just allowed us to get really ambitious in a number of ways.

—Ruth Steinhart

The Lincoln Memorial looms over a football game in this image from the 1964 *Cherry Tree*. INSET An illustration from the 1922 yearbook, the year the memorial was dedicated.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

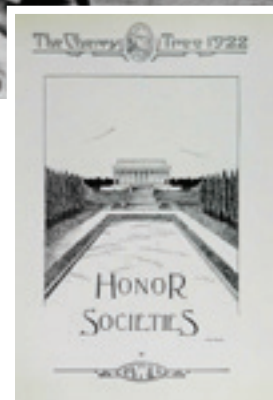
# A Campus Hallmark, Off Campus

Just as GW played a role in the life of Abraham Lincoln—supplying the president with his personal physician (“‘Death Certainly Would Soon Close the Scene,’” Pg. 38)—Mr. Lincoln’s memory has been an intrinsic part of life at the university for

generations.

A hundred years ago, in 1915, the cornerstone of the stately Lincoln Memorial was laid in earth reclaimed from the Potomac River. The finished structure was dedicated in May 1922. In the nine decades since, the gleaming marble monument, standing at the horizon down 23rd Street, has become a touchstone for GW students.

From the beginning the memorial seemed a reminder of the capital’s pomp and promise. The 1922 *Cherry Tree* yearbook introduced a section on honor societies by using an illustration of the new memorial and its reflecting pool. (The latter of which was built



by the company founded by GW trustee Charles H. Tompkins, HON ’46, and his wife, Lida, both of whom attended GW.)

For students since then the memorial has been a place of sunsets (and sunrises), of sanctuary along its Potomac-facing backside, of midnight strolls and mischief—at least one student, the story goes, was

collared for scrambling onto Mr. Lincoln’s lap. It’s been the backdrop of GW sports, from varsity soccer in the 1960s to flag football and rowing along the river. And, of course, it’s been a place to be part of history through music, oratory and seismic marches and protests. —**Danny Freedman, BA ’01**





CORCORAN THESIS EXHIBITION 2015

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Connect with emerging visionaries.  
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Visit *NEXT*, the annual exhibition showcasing work by the graduating students of the Corcoran School of the Arts & Design at the George Washington University. *NEXT* includes the thesis work of undergraduate and graduate students. Visitors to *NEXT* are invited to engage with the next generation of storytellers, visionaries, and provocateurs as they deliver thesis presentations and participate in gallery talks. The exhibition closes May 18.

See more of *NEXT* at  
[next.corcoran.gwu.edu](http://next.corcoran.gwu.edu)  
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APRIL 8, 2015 – MAY 18, 2015

**Corcoran School  
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THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

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WASHINGTON, DC 20006  
CORCORAN.GWU.EDU  
202.639.1803

Photography: Denny Henry





*An inventory written after the death of the count's wife, shortly after they married, listed "two curtains made of four pieces of crimson damask." The Corcoran replaced Mr. Clark's window coverings with these, which were based on a drawing by the room's architect. The fabric was selected from 18th-century French pattern books and woven in France using period techniques.*

*The count was a lover of antiquity and an amateur archaeologist who trailed scholars to excavations in Pompeii. The grandeur of the ancient Roman Empire influenced the salon's neoclassical columns and style.*

**SPACES**

# All That Glitters

The ornate Salon Doré, in the historic former Corcoran Gallery of Art building on 17th Street, is remarkable not just for its opulence and masterful craftsmanship, but because it's also on its third home.

Built in Paris in 1770 by Pierre-Gaspard-Marie Grimod, the Count d'Orsay, the room was designed for his new bride as a celebration of marriage. By the early 20th century it had been packed up and shipped by boat to New York, where the room was reassembled—and enlarged—inside the 100-room Manhattan mansion of tycoon and later one-term U.S. Sen. William A. Clark. After his death, in 1925, the room found a home at the Corcoran.

Restoration work from 1989 to 1993, led by longtime Corcoran conservator Dare Myers Hartwell, returned the salon to much of the count's 18th-century sensibilities, but Mr. Clark's signature touches remain.

After GW acquired the salon through its historic agreement with the Corcoran last summer, Ms. Hartwell took *GW Magazine* on an exclusive tour through the brilliantly gilded work of art.  
— **Julyssa Lopez**

*The wood paneling epitomizes 18th-century French gilding techniques. Sculptors would carve decorations out of oak, which gilders would coat with gesso, a mixture of glue and whiting used as a base layer. An expert hand would carve tiny details into the gesso and thin squares of gold leaf would be applied to the surface.*

*Four Roman-style trophies on the walls reflect the count's passion for the arts, music, love and the military. Mr. Clark added his own trophies to represent his family's interest in theater and sports—complete with very un-18th-century-style features, like darts and a pair of skis.*





Since Mr. Clark expanded the room, he left behind the original ceiling painting, *The Apotheosis of Psyche*, by French artist Hugues Taraval. Instead, his New York City space was built to fit a larger scene that Mr. Taraval had made for the Count d'Orsay's dining room. The *Apotheosis of Psyche* survived in Paris for decades after, but was destroyed in the 1970s.

It was French tradition to decorate the bedrooms of newlyweds with floral garlands—rosebuds represented love, meadow blossoms symbolized matrimony. The count had the motif painted, carved and gilded throughout the salon as an ode to his wife, Princess Marie-Louise Albertine de Croÿ-Molembais.

Most of the room's original, custom-designed furniture was lost after the French Revolution, but four corner tables resurfaced in London around the 1990s. The Corcoran purchased them in 2008, making the Salon Doré one of the few period rooms with original furnishings.



SHOWCASING NEW BOOKS BY GW PROFESSORS AND ALUMNI

# BOOKSHELVES



Nikki Usher

## Interviewing the Interviewers

**The New York Times has supplemented its well-known mandate of publishing “All the News That’s Fit to Print” with “All the News That’s Fit to Click”—a journey that has been neither smooth sailing nor unexciting in its prospects, writes GW professor Nikki Usher.**

/ By Menachem Wecker, MA '09 /



**Making News at The New York Times (University of Michigan Press, 2014)**  
**Nikki Usher, assistant professor of media and public affairs**

Even if rumors of journalism’s demise are premature and exaggerated, it’s no secret that the industry is in crisis and must evolve to meet a new digital landscape. There is, surely, no better front seat to observe that transition as a scholarly fly on the wall than the newsroom at *The New York Times*, which is precisely where Nikki Usher, an assistant professor at the School of Media and Public Affairs, set up shop for an estimated 700 hours during the first six months of 2010. Dr. Usher spent most of her time at the Gray Lady’s business desk and paid

careful attention to the ways that three “core values of online journalism—immediacy, interactivity and participation—emerged as points of tension and change,” she writes.

These three values orient journalism in the new online world. “Journalists must reckon with how to adjust to the demands of a 24/7 news cycle [and] an environment of interactive engagement,” she writes. “... The result has been a restructuring of news routines, albeit in a contested way.” Objectivity, the age-old news value, remains a factor, according to Dr. Usher, but it has perhaps been displaced somewhat by journalists’ new marching orders.

There are challenges in trying to pin down a speeding target in book format, Dr. Usher admits. “Yet there are some underlying themes that remain the same regardless of the technological change,” she says. While her book captures a moment in the history of a particular newspaper, it tells a story “about the clash of old and new that has been repeated over and over again throughout the history of news.”

Since completing her research in 2010, Dr. Usher has noticed considerable changes in the field. The biggest, she says, has been the evolution of “analytics,” or measurements to track online user behavior—metrics that are becoming increasingly important in editorial decision-making and to advertisers. “Yet at *The New York Times*, analytics are only beginning to make major inroads, as company interviews and documents suggest that many journalists only have a cursory understanding of their meaning,” she says.

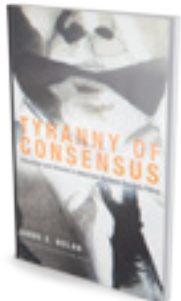




**Company Man: Thirty Years of Controversy and Crisis in the CIA (Scribner, 2014)**

**John Rizzo, JD '72**

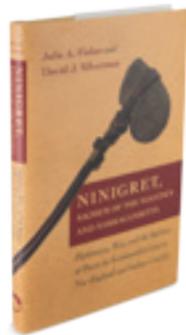
Like the *Times*, the CIA navigated a reality with new technologies and ethics that govern them, most notoriously the destruction of tapes documenting the interrogation and waterboarding of Guantanamo Bay inmate Abu Zubaydah. An ex-CIA lawyer with 34 years at the agency—seven as its chief legal officer—John Rizzo reveals all in this eyewitness account.



**Tyranny of Consensus (Century Foundation Press, 2013)**

**Janne E. Nolan**

“If making security policy is challenging,” writes Century Foundation President Janice Nittoli in the foreword, “so too is performing the post mortem when it fails.” And fail it does, occasionally in grand fashion, despite its immense network of resources, notes author and GW Research Professor Janne E. Nolan. The scope of the foreign policy problem, Dr. Nolan writes, amounts to a “recurring pattern of misperception that is not widely discussed or understood.”



**Ninigret, Sachem of the Niantics and Narragansetts (Cornell University Press, 2014)**

**Julie A. Fisher, MA '02, and David J. Silverman**

Though the name may be unfamiliar, Ninigret was arguably the most influential Native American leader in southern New England in the 18th century. A conventional biography of the man whose birth year isn't known and whose apparent portrait from around 1700 cannot be confirmed would be tough to manage, write alumna Julie A. Fisher and GW Professor of History David J. Silverman. But a political biography such as this is overdue.



**Every Citizen A Soldier (Texas A&M University Press, 2014)**  
**William A. Taylor, MPhil '09, PhD '10**

The United States has opted to prioritize individual liberties over any potential benefits of universal military training, or UMT, but the nation might have weighed its priorities differently were it not for key decisions in the aftermath of World War II, writes alumnus William A. Taylor. The battle for mandatory training may have been lost then due to poor calculations and disunity among the ranks of UMT proponents, Dr. Taylor writes, but it remains to be seen what, if anything, may change in the post-9/11 world.



**The Private War of William Styron (BrandyLane Publishers, 2014)**


**Mary Wakefield Buxton, MA '86**

The subject of this book, American novelist William Styron, was “one of the greatest writers of our time,” according to alumna Mary Wakefield Buxton in an author's note. The work is described as “mostly fiction,” although surely there is some creative non-fiction mixed in, as the writer was Ms. Buxton's mentor and cousin.



**Intimate Collaborations: Kandinsky & Münter, Arp & Taeuber (Yale University Press, 2014)**

**Bibiana K. Obler**

Others have observed that gender played an important role in abstract art's early days, but its “more integral, minutely involved role in the emergence of abstraction” hasn't been studied properly, writes Bibiana K. Obler, associate professor of art history. This book adopts two couples as case studies: Expressionists Wassily Kandinsky and Gabriele Münter, and Dadaists Hans Arp and Sophie Taeuber. 







Freshman Jillian Winstanley captured the all-around title at an annual event in January named in memory of former GW gymnast Lindsey Ferris, BA '01, MS '03.

**GYMNASTICS**

## At Ferris Invitational, a Symbolic Victory

The GW gymnastics team topped a field of league rivals and other competitors to win its third consecutive Lindsey Ferris Invitational in January at the Charles E. Smith Center.

Freshman Jillian Winstanley won the all-around title—the fourth year in a row that a GW gymnast has claimed the championship at the event—and tied classmate Sara Mermelstein for first place on the balance beam. Sophomore Chelsea Raineri, meanwhile, tied for first on vault and the floor exercise, among other high marks in the meet against Cornell, Temple, North Carolina and Pittsburgh.

But it was the gathering that followed, after the gymnastics routines had all concluded, that held even more of a lasting impact. Current student-athletes, dozens of former gymnasts, families and friends came together, as they do each year, to honor the memory of the competition's namesake.

Lindsey Ferris was a four-year letterwinner on the gymnastics team who graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts degree in communication in 2001, then earned a master's degree in forensic sciences in 2003 while serving as a Presidential Administrative Fellow. She went on to become a special agent for the Air Force Office of Special Investigations before her death in January 2006.

"Lindsey brought positive energy into practice every single day," head coach Margie Foster-Cunningham says. "Her work ethic was tremendous and made everyone

GW ATHLETICS COMMUNICATIONS

around her better. She was a leader amongst her peers and was respected by all of her teammates. Her legacy of passion, attitude and teamwork has had a lasting effect on this program.”

Prior to the inaugural invitational in 2007, the gymnastics team established in her memory the Attitude is Everything Award. The award is presented to the Colonials gymnast who most exemplifies Ms. Ferris’ vibrant spirit for life, passion for the sport and selfless dedication to her team.

“The Lindsey Ferris Invitational was always my favorite meet to compete in,” says Kayla Carto, BS ’13, MTA ’14, recipient of the 2014 Attitude is Everything Award. “The meet is bigger than any of my routines or the team score we earned. It is about Lindsey and the impact that she has made on our community. That is Lindsey Ferris’ legacy.”

**BASKETBALL**

## March Madness: A Familiar Feeling in Foggy Bottom

For nearly a quarter century, the madness of March has had a grip on the George Washington University.

From 1991 to 2014, a span of 23 seasons, the GW men’s and women’s basketball teams have amassed 24 trips to the NCAA Tournament and another eight to their respective National Invitation Tournaments.

The combined 32 postseason appearances during that time frame are the most of any current Atlantic 10 Conference program, and the 24 total bids to

the March Madness of the NCAA Tournament are nearly double that of the next closest A-10 school (Saint Joseph’s, which has 13).

In March 2014, both teams reached the postseason for the first time since 2007. Now in March 2015, they again have their sights set firmly on adding to GW’s proud postseason basketball tradition.

“What both of our basketball programs have accomplished in such a short period of time is not only a testament to the hard work of our current student-athletes and coaches, but the foundation laid by alumni in recent decades,” says fourth-year Director of Athletics Patrick Nero.

“As we strive toward establishing sustained success in all of our 27 varsity sports, it’s important that our men’s and women’s basketball programs continue to excel nationally and serve as a point of pride for the Athletics Department and university,” he says.

Of GW men’s basketball’s 15 all-time NCAA and NIT appearances, 13 have come since 1991, including a conference-best nine NCAA bids over that span.

The Colonials made the postseason eight times in the 1990s, highlighted by the 1993

NCAA Sweet 16 and a pair of back-to-back NCAA trips in 1993-94 and 1998-99. Then it was four consecutive postseason bids in the 2000s featuring a school-record three straight NCAA berths from 2005-07.

The 2010s era of GW men’s basketball is shaping up to be equally as fruitful, as the Colonials, under the direction of fourth-year head coach Mike Lonergan, close in on another postseason in 2015 after earning a trip to the Big Dance in 2014.

Starting with its first trip to the Big Dance in 1991, GW women’s basketball has earned 19 postseason berths, an Atlantic 10-leading total that includes 15 NCAA Tournament appearances, four Sweet 16s and a trip to the Elite Eight in 1997.

Now led by third-year head coach Jonathan Tsipis, the Colonials are re-staking their claim as the most dominant program in the A-10. After reaching the NCAA or WNIT every year during the 2000s, GW returned to the postseason in 2014 and advanced to the third round of the WNIT. In 2015, the Colonials have climbed back into the top 25 polls for the first time in seven years and are poised for one of the finest seasons in program history, with

an Atlantic 10 regular season championship already among their accolades in 2014-15.

The Colonials reached back-to-back Sweet 16s in 2007 and 2008, capping a run of six straight NCAA Tournament appearances. The second round of the 2008 tournament produced one of the most iconic moments in GW women’s basketball history, as Sarah-Jo Lawrence’s basket with 5.7 seconds left sent the Colonials to the Sweet 16 with a 55-53 upset of third-seeded California.

Now an academic support assistant in the GW Athletics Department who works with the women’s basketball squad, Ms. Lawrence draws some comparisons between her legendary teams and the 2014-15 Colonials.

“Everyone expects to win and knows they can play with any team in the country,” she says. “We always took pride in beating top teams and sending a message, and that’s exactly what this team is doing.”

**CHAMPIONSHIPS**

## Conference Finals for 3 Sports to be Held at GW

Gymnastics, lacrosse and baseball fans from around the country will descend upon D.C. for a trio of conference championships this spring that will be hosted by the GW Department of Athletics & Recreation.

On March 21, the Charles E. Smith Center on the Foggy Bottom Campus will host the East Atlantic Gymnastics League Championship. The event, marking the second time in the last five years that the Colonials have hosted their premier event of the season, will welcome North Carolina, NC

Senior Lauren Chase dances with teammates after the Colonials clinched the outright A-10 regular season championship.





State, Towson, Pittsburgh and New Hampshire.


Then on the first weekend of May, GW's Mount Vernon Campus will host this year's Atlantic 10 Lacrosse Championship. A few weeks later, May 20-24, Tucker Field at Barcroft Park in Arlington, Va., will be the venue for the Atlantic 10 Baseball Championship.

The top four teams in the standings following the regular season will advance to the A-10 Lacrosse Championship while the top seven teams in the baseball standings will move on to the double-elimination tournament. The winners of both tournaments will receive an automatic bid into their respective NCAA Championship field.

GW gymnastics head coach Margie Foster-Cunningham says she is proud to see GW's facilities recognized as championship-caliber venues.

"The Charles E. Smith Center is a fantastic gymnastics venue and really provides the audience with a terrific view of the competition floor," Ms. Foster-Cunningham says. "Our team loves competing in our home arena, and having the opportunity to win a championship here has them incredibly focused this season."

GW's baseball stadium, the newly dedicated Tucker Field at Barcroft Park, was renamed in October following a multimillion-dollar gift to the university from GW trustee and former centerfielder Avram S. "Ave" Tucker, BBA '77. The ballpark will host the A-10 Championship for the first time in GW baseball history.

"Tucker Field is one of the best collegiate venues in the region, and we are thrilled to be hosting this year's Atlantic 10 Championship tournament," third-year head coach Gregg Ritchie says. "The motivation to make sure that we are there as contenders at the end of May is an incredible driving force behind our team this season." 



Mr. Ritchie, his wife, Kelly, BA '86 (second from left), and their children show support for the team's new beard policy.

**"Weather is no obstacle, especially when we all have beards!"**

— Baseball head coach Gregg Ritchie, BBA '87, after the team practiced through 2 inches of snow covering the ball field on a Tuesday in late January. Mr. Ritchie had reversed a policy on whiskers at the end of fall practice. "We had a no-facial-hair rule the past two years, and we started both of those seasons 3-9 through our first 12 games," he says. "In an effort to combat the slow starts and have some team bonding, we are letting the beards grow."

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# RESEARCH NEWS

**CLIMATE**

## A Race to the North

**As Alaskan permafrost rapidly melts, professor J. Houston Miller and his students are designing new technology for a trip to the ground zero of global warming**

Summer in Fairbanks, Alaska, is far from the frozen landscape many imagine. The sun shines almost around the clock, the trees and grass are green and vacationers worry more about swarms of mosquitoes than blocks of ice. But amid the area's thick spruce forests and layers of moss is a region scientists are

calling a climate time bomb.

"This is the center of climate change," says chemistry professor J. Houston Miller. "It's where everyone in the climate community is turning their attention."

That's because just below the mossy surface lies a layer of frozen earth known as permafrost. And while some of this icy rock, soil and peat has persisted for more than 10,000 years—since the last Ice Age—it is now melting rapidly. The thawing permafrost is releasing massive amounts of greenhouse gases into the air and, climate scientists contend, exacerbating global warming.

"Most people are aware of rising sea levels and temperature changes, but they don't know about permafrost," Dr. Miller says. "This is the big one. This is the one that really counts."

In June, Dr. Miller and a

pair of graduate students will travel to the Alaskan hot spot on a mission to measure the effects of permafrost thaw. Their work is part of a multifaceted project funded by a \$980,000 grant from NASA's Terrestrial Hydrology Program. Other research partners include the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center and the University of Alaska, Fairbanks.

Dr. Miller's role is to take ground-level measurements of greenhouse gas concentrations during the summer melting season, using a tool he is devising that will perform open-path, laser absorption measurements of damaging gas levels. From the Fairbanks field site, he hopes to collect ultra-precise measurements that can validate NASA's satellite readings. It's the first step in defining a long-term measurement strategy and establishing a protocol for permafrost-related climate modeling.

### A Broken Cycle

Permafrost is known as a "carbon-sink," its rich soil storing organic material from decaying plants and animals.

There may be as much as 1,000 billion metric tons of carbon in the permafrost ground, more than double the amount currently in the atmosphere.

Permafrost can be up to 5,000 feet thick, but it is the top "active" layer, which is just 1 to 3 feet deep, that most concerns climate watchers. The top layer thaws and refreezes each year. During the melting season, carbon—mostly in the form of carbon dioxide and particularly damaging methane—is released into the air.

But that thaw-and-refreeze cycle is being thrown off-balance, Dr. Miller says. Alaska's temperatures are rising twice as fast as the rest of North America's. Fairbanks' ground temperatures now hover near the thaw point, resulting in more rapid permafrost melt and more greenhouse gases spewed into the atmosphere.

Most permafrost models rely on satellite projections that, while remarkably detailed, also present limitations due to cloud cover, timing and distance. Dr. Miller's ground-level measurements should provide



Melting permafrost can cause trees to list or fall.

LEE PETERSEN



readings that complement NASA's satellite shots.

"Our measurements on their own won't be worth very much," he says. "The value will be in validating the satellite measurements, and creating a clear and consistent model."

Dr. Miller's latest prototype may not look like much. His laser is mounted atop a store-bought telescope tripod and attached to, as he calls it, a "spaghetti mess" of optical fibers, wires and electrical components. But he's confident that the final product will mark the first step in correlating vital climate data. And after the team returns to campus in July, he anticipates further refining his instruments for future Arctic excursions.

In the meantime, as Dr. Miller and his students rush to finish and test the instruments on a compressed timeline, they are also preparing for the realities of fieldwork in Alaska.

"We have to anticipate everything we could possibly need when we are out in the field," he says. "If a moose knocks over our laser in the middle of a spruce forest, we can't run to Loews for replacement parts."

—John DiConsiglio

#### PUBLIC HEALTH

## Cadmium Exposure Linked to Aging, Chronic Disease

Exposure to cadmium, even at low levels, may put people at significantly higher risk for diseases associated with aging, according to a new study from a GW researcher.

Ami Zota, a professor in the Milken Institute School of Public Health, and her colleagues found

that the heavy metal is associated with the shortening of telomeres, DNA protein complexes that cap the end of chromosomes and protect them from deterioration.

Telomere shortening is a normal part of getting older, Dr. Zota says, but cadmium exposure seems to speed up the process.

Cadmium is released into the environment from mining and metal processing operations, burning fuels, using phosphate fertilizers and disposing of metal products, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. It can enter the bloodstream through ingesting cadmium-contaminated food and water and by breathing contaminated air.

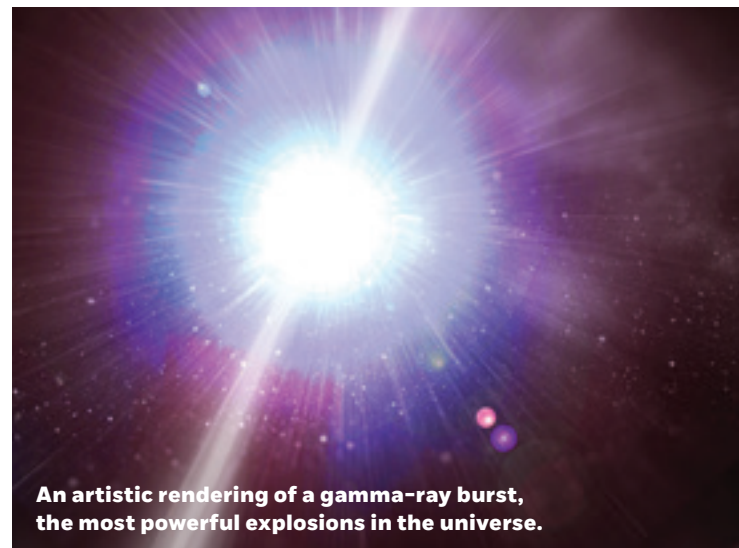
Cigarette smoke is another source of exposure, since tobacco plants tend to absorb cadmium from contaminated soil. Smokers have about twice as much cadmium in their bodies as nonsmokers, according to the government.

Past research has linked shortened telomeres to premature aging, but Dr. Zota's study, published in the *American Journal of Epidemiology* in December, is the largest to date that looks at the relationship between cadmium exposure and telomeres.

While other studies have examined the impact of genetic, lifestyle and psychosocial factors on telomeres, she says, "environmental factors have been left out of the picture."

The researchers analyzed blood and urine samples from more than 6,700 U.S. adults who participated in a nationally representative survey. People with the highest concentrations of cadmium in their bloodstream had telomeres that were about 6 percent shorter than those in the lowest group. Their cells looked on average 11 years older than their calendar age.

—Lauren Ingenu



An artistic rendering of a gamma-ray burst, the most powerful explosions in the universe.

#### PHYSICS

## NASA Stargazer Sets Sights on GW

Gamma-ray bursts are the most powerful, brightest explosions in the universe, and for more than two decades they have captured the imagination of Chryssa Kouveliotou, a high-energy astrophysicist who joined the university's Department of Physics in February from NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala.

A native of Athens, Greece, Dr. Kouveliotou has received numerous awards for her achievements and, in 2012, was named one of *Time* magazine's 25 most influential people in space. She is also a member of the National Academy of Sciences, one of the highest professional honors among scientists, engineers and doctors.

Astrophysicists like Dr. Kouveliotou study gamma-ray bursts to learn more about the formation and expansion of our universe. These transient events occur about once a day when massive stars collapse into black holes or when two neutron stars

collide, outshining the rest of the cosmos for milliseconds up to a few minutes.

While at NASA, Dr. Kouveliotou was part of the team that proved gamma rays come from outside the galaxy. She is recognized for her discovery of two different classes of gamma-ray bursts. And her work proved that soft-gamma repeaters—slowly rotating neutron stars that also emit bursts of light—are actually so-called "magnetars" that possess the most extreme magnetic fields in nature. Unlike gamma-ray bursts, these are recurrent rather than one-time events.

Dr. Kouveliotou spends much of her time gathering and interpreting data from instruments on board spacecrafts—her "eyes in the sky." That is "a little bit different than looking with your own eyes through a telescope, which is what I grew up hoping I would do. But, in a way, it's more exciting," she says. "It has huge discovery potential because we're just at the beginning stages."

"Everything we see comes from the stars," says Department of Physics Chair Bill Briscoe. "You can not understand what our world is made of unless you understand how stars are born and how they die."

—Lauren Ingenu

# A Museum of People and Place

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In March, GW opens the doors to a museum anchored by renowned collections of textiles and American history. With it come opportunities for scholars on campus and the world over.

*By Julyssa Lopez*





he was barely 5 feet tall, but the Empress Dowager Cixi wielded such power over imperial China that she was known as the “She Dragon.”

The concubine rose through the ranks of the Chinese imperial court after bearing the Xianfeng Emperor’s only son. When the emperor died in 1861, Cixi’s 5-year-old boy was too young to command the throne and leadership of the country was left to eight special ministers.

One by one, they disappeared. Historical accounts say Cixi ordered the dismissal of five and the deaths of three in a bloody coup that allowed her to become the country’s top regent. She was 25.

Other shocking displays of power, though, could be as soft as silk. A luxurious navy blue robe that experts believe Cixi wore to wedding celebrations is woven with decorative medallions boasting images of the sun, moon, stars and mountains—motifs reserved for emperors. No other woman in China would have been bold enough to don them on a dress. Photographs of Cixi reveal that she frequently appropriated male authority symbols in her wardrobe.

An entire history and cultural code of conduct is locked in the fibers of that robe, which is one of the pieces that will be on display when a new museum, the co-branded George Washington University Museum and The Textile Museum, opens on March 21.

The garment will be featured in “Unraveling Identity: Our Textiles, Our Stories,” the largest of the museum’s three opening exhibitions with more than 100 objects that span 2,000 years and five continents. Curators Sumru Belger Krody and Lee Talbot explain that the show aims to illustrate the myriad details that textiles and clothing reveal about self and status, from an ancient Peruvian tunic to Hubert de Givenchy’s exotic reinvention of the “little black dress,” with its whimsical aesthetic of sleek, silvery cockerel feathers leaking out from a delicate velvet bodice.

The other two opening exhibits explore the identity of the capital city itself. In “Seat of Empire: Planning Washington, 1790-1801,” curator and GW adjunct history professor Kenneth Bowling uses maps and prints from the university’s Albert H. Small Washingtoniana Collection to depict how early urban designs shaped the District. And history professor Tyler Anbinder curated

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**Among the ways China’s Empress Dowager Cixi conveyed her authority was in the clothes she wore, including this robe woven with powerful symbols reserved for emperors.**



The new museum will open on March 21 in a sleek, 46,000-square-foot building at 21st and G streets, with a bridge gallery connecting it to the freshly renovated, 160-year-old Woodhull House.



“The Civil War and the Making of Modern Washington,” which traces the physical and political transformation of the city in the mid-1800s.

The opening of the museum is the culmination of a years-long integration process that brought the 90-year-old Textile Museum to the Foggy Bottom Campus from its former home in D.C.’s Kalorama neighborhood. It also marks the end of two years of construction that yielded a 46,000-square-foot building on the corner of 21st and G streets, a renovation of the historic Woodhull House and a collections and conservation facility on GW’s Virginia Science and Technology Campus.

The museum brings together The Textile Museum’s world-renowned collection of more than 19,000 textiles dating from 3000 B.C. to the present and National Humanities Medal-recipient Albert H. Small’s assemblage of a thousand maps, prints and other documents that chronicle the evolution of Washington.

While the two collections might seem worlds apart, museum director John

Wetenhall sees strength in their scope and diversity. There are fabrics and works on paper. There are tapestries the size of billboards and artifacts no bigger than a thimble. There are international histories and local revelations.

“Ultimately, these diverse objects show us the same thing: how people live as individuals and how they define their communities,” Dr. Wetenhall says. “They reveal values.”

And the museum will offer far more than the integration of two collections. Already professors think of the building as an academic resource, students see a place to hone skills and cultivate career interests, and art aficionados are looking forward to having a cultural hub in Foggy Bottom.

**As March 21 inches closer**, movers shuffle in and out of the building’s glass doors heaving wooden shelves and steel ladders into gallery spaces. The glossy floors are covered in blue masking tape to help guide the movement of 4,000-year-old objects toward their destinations. Members of the museum’s

exhibition production team flit in and out of rooms with measuring tapes in hand.

The busiest place of all is the fourth floor, where museum staff members sit along a narrow row of cubicles. Second-year graduate student Lauren Shenfeld, BA ’13, crouches over her computer on one side of the room, eyeing a six-page calendar that outlines all of the museum’s upcoming events. She’s been working at the museum through a Presidential Administrative Fellowship, and part of her role includes helping education curator Tom Goehner, MA ’93, organize activities that will concretize the museum’s identity. There’s already something different planned in the building almost every day through the end of the summer.

“The museum is a larger endeavor that will offer so much, and it’ll all happen through the programming, energy and atmosphere of the space,” she says. “People can anticipate some kind of educational experience any day they come into the museum—anything from film screenings to roundtables with professors.”



# “It’s the thrill of something so old surviving time and, suddenly, it’s at your fingertips.”

Mr. Goehner has been leading The Textile Museum’s programs for almost a decade, bringing the artifacts into sharper focus by illuminating the processes through which textiles are created.

“You might know that an object is a photograph, but until you press the lever on a camera, you won’t know what it’s like to be a photographer,” he says. “Until you experience using a shed and pulling all the threads, you don’t know the weaving process at a richer level.”

A lecture on GW’s first Commencement with former University Archivist David Anderson is scheduled for April, and a silk-screening class will take place at the beginning of the fall semester. Every Sunday, the museum will be the venue for a radio show on the student-run station, WRGW, featuring culture discussions and live music.

The list of events also includes a presentation by junior Nicholas DiNella. Last year, for a history course, Mr. DiNella used archival documents to unearth the story of the former GW Hospital site, on the 2200 block of Pennsylvania Avenue, which served as a temporary military base called Camp Fry during the Civil War.

Professor Christopher Klemek designed the course to encourage students to seek out primary sources as a way to better “understand and appreciate Washington as a classroom,” he says. The availability of the Albert H. Small Washingtoniana Collection, he adds, offers exciting possibilities.

In addition to illustrating one avenue for students to showcase their academic work at the museum, the class epitomizes the way Mr. Small hoped his collection would inspire Washington-area studies when he donated it to the university in 2011.

Mr. Small’s trove of 1,000 objects began with one manuscript. He had been browsing a bookshop in New York City more than 60 years ago when he came across a booklet from 1905—“a little thing,” he has recalled. Its pages, many with snapshots glued to them, needed to be handled as delicately as cobweb, but the handwriting boasted a firm history of how Washington was laid out in 1791. The notes, meticulously recorded by a man named Fred Woodward, described the original surviving boundary stones that divided D.C. from Maryland and Virginia.

The manuscript ignited Mr. Small’s passion for collecting Washington antiquities.

“When Mr. Small decided to give the collection to GW, he wanted it to be used by students, researchers and faculty. He didn’t want it to be stored away somewhere,” museum studies professor Laura Schiavo says.

Dr. Schiavo, along with Department of History Chair William Becker, has ensured that students get their eyes on Mr. Small’s collection by leading research into lesser-known objects. Students’ findings have been shared directly with Mr. Small at an annual symposium and are even incorporated into a forthcoming book on the collection, written by its longtime curator, James M. Goode, PhD ’95, and published by Smithsonian Books.

Mr. Small also provided \$5 million to restore the 160-year-old Woodhull House, adjacent to the new museum building, where his collection will be displayed and studied. Serving until recently as the home of the university police department, the historic two-story structure, recognizable by its classic Italianate-style brick façade, is now connected to the new museum building by a glass bridge gallery.

Inside, coats of seafoam green paint and bone-white crown molding help preserve the building’s 19th-century elegance. The space will feature perennial exhibitions organized by historian Jane Freundel Levey, MA ’91.

Those exhibitions are what aspiring art historian Maggie Leak, MA ’14, is anticipating most. She became familiar with the Washingtoniana collection while researching a hand-drawn map in one of Dr. Schiavo’s classes. Delving into the city’s history brought her closer to D.C. in a way that she hopes will benefit other students.

“GW prides itself on making history, but what about the fascinating history it already holds?” she says. “These exhibitions will help students draw connections from D.C.’s past to today.”

**When Dr. Anbinder, the history professor** who curated “The Civil War and the Making of Modern Washington,” began working on the exhibition two years ago, he was stirred by a rare feeling. “It’s the thrill of something so old surviving time



**Detail of an 1862 war telegram marking map, which is part of the exhibition “The Civil War and the Making of Modern Washington.”**

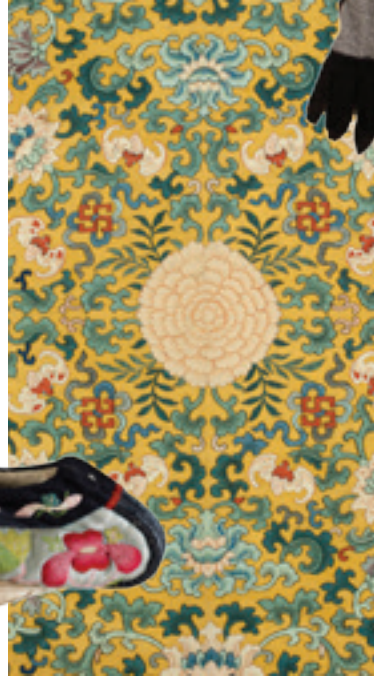
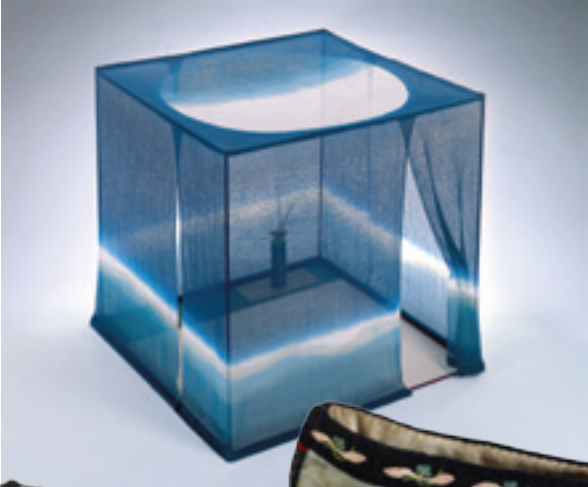




SHOES: ADDISON DOTY, COURTESY INDIAN ARTS RESEARCH CENTER (IARC SAR-2003-16-1) / ALL OTHERS: GEORGE WASHINGTON MUSEUM AND THE TEXTILE MUSEUM (CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: HAT: GIFT OF DR. AND MRS. AUSEY ROBBETT, TM 1993.3.2; JACKET: RUTH LINCOLN FISHER MEMORIAL FUND, TM 1985.5.1; TUNIC: MUSEUM ACQUISITION, TM 1962.1.14; ILLUSTRATION: AS 146)



TEA ROOM: COURTESY SHIHKO FUKUMOTO (MUSEUM PURCHASE WITH FUNDS PROVIDED BY DAVID AND SARA LIEBERMAN, MAD 2001.35) / BATMAN: COURTESY SMITHSONIAN AMERICAN ART MUSEUM (MUSEUM PURCHASE THROUGH THE RICHARD T. EVANS FUND, SAAM 2010.20) / ALL OTHERS: GEORGE WASHINGTON MUSEUM AND THE TEXTILE MUSEUM (CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: NAST; AS 142; CUSHION COVER: FROM LEFT: NAST; AS 142; CUSHION COVER: ACQUIRED BY GEORGE HEWITT MYERS IN 1940, TM 51.18; SHOES: GIFT OF SUSAN AND CHARLES DEVILLIER IN MEMORY OF REVEREND AND MRS. LEONARD J. LARSON, TM 2011.12.1 A AND B)



- 1 Late-19th or early-20th century velvet hat from China worn by a sixth-rank civil official
- 2 Detail of silken jacket from 17th-century Iran
- 3 Teri Greeves' *My Family's Tennis Shoes Series*, 2003
- 4 Chief's tunic or cape from the Democratic Republic of Congo or Angola, possibly from the 19th century and made of raffia palm fiber
- 5 Thomas Nast drawings from *The New-York Illustrated News*, in June 1861, depicting the landing of Col. Elmer Ellsworth's regiment in Alexandria, Va., the month prior
- 6 A rendering, from an architect's drawing, of the new building housing the departments of State, War and Navy, published in *Harper's Weekly*, April 20, 1872
- 7 Mark Newport's 2005 *Batman 2*
- 8 *The Tea Ceremony Room*, by Shihoko Fukumoto, 1999
- 9 Detail of an imperial cushion cover from mid-19th century China
- 10 Shoes made of silk and wood for a Manchu noblewoman from late-19th century China



TOP Prototypes of the exhibition spaces were used for planning  
BOTTOM, FROM LEFT Exhibition production staff members Scott Brouard and Doug Anderson, student Warren Lewis, Exhibition Coordinator Monika Hirschbichler, conservators Esther Méthé and Maria Fusco, and exhibition production staff member Frank Petty meet on the first day of installation.



WILLIAM AWINS



▶ and, suddenly, it's at your fingertips."

He had driven out to Mr. Small's office in Bethesda, Md., hoping to browse a few objects for the show. Among the aged maps and letters, he came across a woodcut print from an 1861 edition of the *New York Illustrated News*.

"Alexandria, Va., taken by Colonel Ellsworth," a tiny caption read. On May 24, 1861, shortly after Civil War fighting broke out and just one day after Virginia's secession was ratified, Col. Elmer Ellsworth had been among those leading U.S. forces into Alexandria. Entering a hotel to take down its Confederate flag, Col. Ellsworth emerged triumphantly with the banner in hand. Just then, the hotel owner raised his gun and shot him squarely in the chest, making Col. Ellsworth the first Union death on Confederate soil.

The scene played out in Dr. Anbinder's head as he stared at Col. Ellsworth's figure in the print. How enthusiastic and naïve the young colonel looked, Dr. Anbinder thought, completely unaware of his impending death.

"Stories like this take the Civil War, which can feel so big and detached, and make it personal," he says.

Dr. Anbinder and Dr. Bowling, who curated "Seat of Empire," both spent hours going over Mr. Small's objects, finding equally poignant narratives that would encompass the themes of their exhibitions. After picking the stories they wanted to tell, they consulted GW professors who could help bring their exhibitions to life.

Dr. Schiavo lent her curating expertise to both professors as they finalized the two opening shows. One meeting, in particular, she says, seems indicative of the process. In a brainstorming session with Dr. Bowling to discuss the layout of "Seat of Empire," they were joined by Lisa Benton-Short, a GW geography professor who has written several books on D.C.'s monuments and public spaces, and Richard Longstreth, a faculty expert on American architecture and historic preservation.

"We had people from different fields tossing ideas around, and we kept going and going until we got to the concept of an interactive that would display how big the original plan for Washington was," Dr. Schiavo says. "It really took a geographer, two historians and a curator—all four brains—playing with this idea."

The museum's curators see potential in continuing to consult professors from all corners of the university. For an upcoming exhibition that examines migration stories, curator Lee Talbot is working with the professors from the Elliott School of International Affairs' Diaspora Program. He's also involving the GW Confucius

Institute in activities leading up to an exhibition on textiles and photographs from China that will premiere in the fall.

"Already, the momentum is building for future collaborations," he says.

**Next to Mr. Talbot's desk sit three tiny 3-D models.** From a distance, they look almost like a neighborhood of dollhouses, but they're actually pocket-sized renderings of the opening exhibitions.

Graduate students in the museum studies program spent hours cutting out thumbnail-size images of the objects and pasting them onto the minuscule prototypes. The work was fastidious but critical to the curation and installation process. Mr. Talbot and his team have peered constantly into the cardboard replicas to visualize details of each show.

When the university announced it would build the George Washington University Museum and The Textile Museum on campus, Barbara Brennan instantly saw it as a chance for aspiring exhibition designers to hone their craft.

A co-director of the exhibition design certificate program, Ms. Brennan fills her syllabi with assignments that give students on-the-job experience. Many of her class projects have included design work for the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum, where she designed exhibitions for 30 years before retiring—and where she's still a familiar presence, trailed by small armies of graduate students.

A museum on campus, she knew, would afford students lessons that no textbook or class work could offer.

"This is a chance for students to design something real," she says. "These exhibitions are going to happen, and they'll be displayed for the whole D.C. community. That's an invaluable experience for students going into any kind of museum work."

In one of her courses last spring, Ms. Brennan challenged students to design the exhibitions that Dr. Bowling and Dr. Anbinder curated, as well as the exhibition of Chinese textiles for this fall.

For "The Civil War and the Making of Modern Washington," Natalia Febo, MA '14, worked in a group that came up with a 20-page drawing plan, highlighting everything from green and mauve color palettes to the curving fonts that the exhibition will use. Sydney Katz, MA '14, created a sepia-toned mural of the Capitol under construction. It will be stretched across one of the walls of Woodhull House, providing a literal picture of Washington in the making.

"If you think about all the people and the roles involved in museums, the field really is all about working collaboratively," Ms. Febo says. "This class showed me how

important it is to work on a team, and I'm proud that we created really professional work as a group."

In other classes, Kathy Dwyer Southern's students came up with fundraising ideas for the museum's development team, while professor Amelia Wong's digital strategy course created social media tactics that can be used for the first few exhibitions.

Because many of the objects in the museum's collections have been around for centuries, bright exhibition lights and mounting processes can be a strain. So exhibitions at the museum will change frequently, and that means more experiences for students. Ms. Brennan's current spring semester class is already conceptualizing two Washingtonian exhibitions that will premiere in November and a major textile exhibition slated for 2016.

**"First one down!" someone cheers.**

It's January and up in the third-floor gallery, a clutch of experts including conservators Esther Méthé and Maria Fusco—who are among the few authorized to actually touch the ancient objects—has just installed the museum's first object.

"The final one will feel even better," another person quips.


The team is facing six weeks of work and nearly 100 more objects to install. Each one might require hours of detailed prep work, coordination and delicate labor.

Still, the moment is one of excitement, a step into uncharted territory, as they inscribe pristine walls with a first chapter of history.

Ms. Fusco stops for a second, cocking her head to consider the museum's inaugural piece. It's a square of *tiraz* fabric that once formed a banner woven in the year 1000. Later, it was repurposed into religious décor that hung in the Bibi Shahr Banu Shrine near Rayy, Iran.

Now the little textile has seen its way into another century and, perhaps for the first time in a while, is imbued with a certain newness.

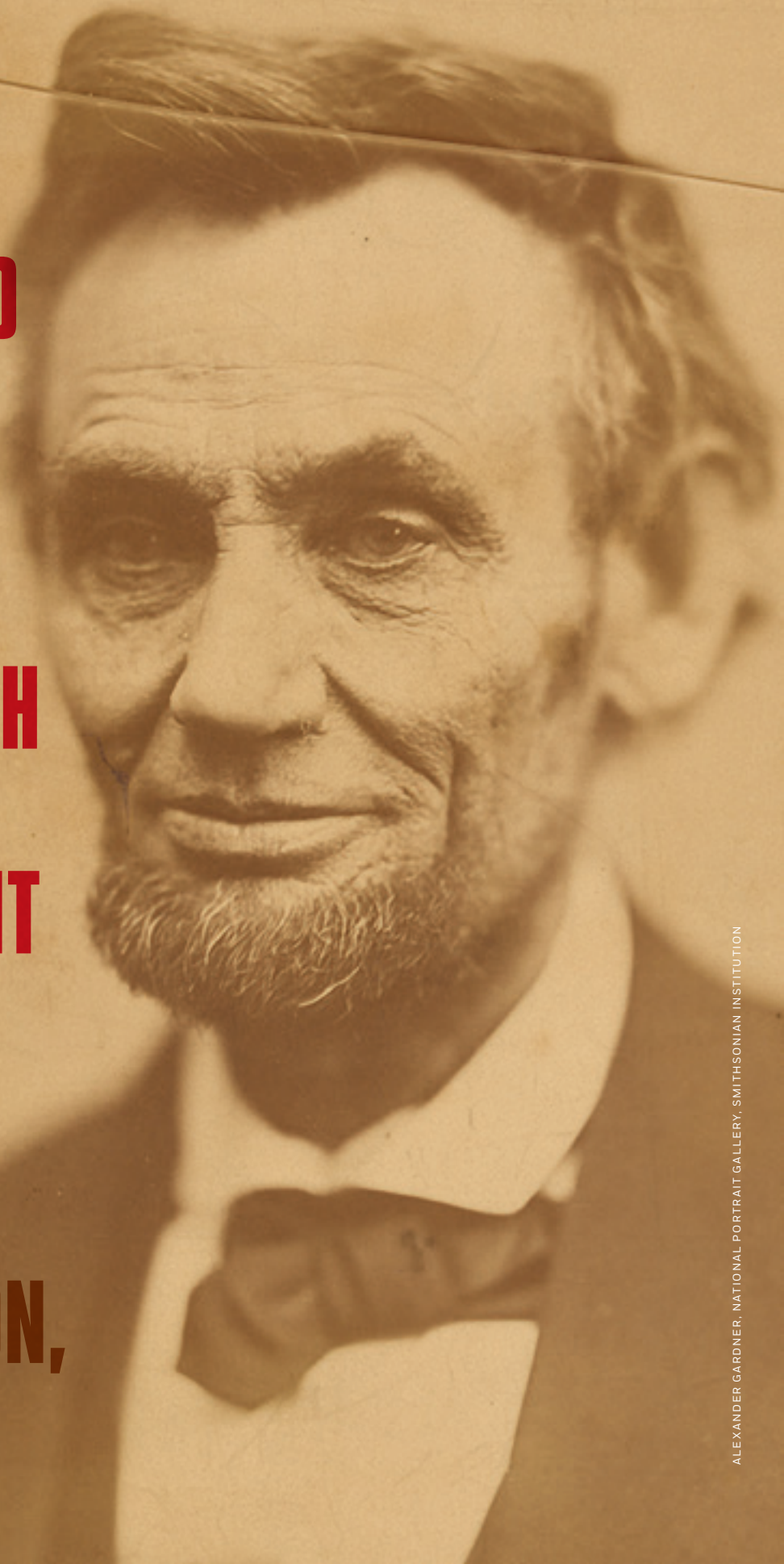
The blending of antiquity and modernity, of person and place that is patterned into the opening is emblematic of the kind of inquisitive content the museum plans to offer generations of scholars and art lovers, says Bruce P. Baganz, president of The Textile Museum's board of trustees.

"From here on," he says, "we're limited only by our imaginations." 

 **For more information on the museum's collections and upcoming exhibitions and events, visit [museum.gwu.edu](http://museum.gwu.edu).**

**ONE-HUNDRED-  
FIFTY YEARS AGO  
THIS APRIL, THE  
CIVIL WAR ENDED  
AND THE MAN  
WHO REUNITED  
THE NATION  
CELEBRATED WITH  
A NIGHT AT THE  
THEATER—A NIGHT  
HE ENDED IN THE  
CARE OF HIS GW  
PHYSICIAN.**

**BY MARC LEEPSON,  
BA '67, MA '71**







# 'DEATH CERTAINLY WOULD SOON CLOSE THE SCENE'

**R**acing through the darkened city in a carriage “driven at top speed,” Robert King Stone arrived at the red brick boarding house in minutes.

Inside, he found a clutch of doctors gathered around an unconscious Abraham Lincoln. The president, he would later recall, “was laid upon the occupant’s bed and so great was his stature that his body had to be placed obliquely across it and while his head reached the left-hand top of the bed, his feet extended to the right-hand bottom of the couch.”

Charles A. Leale, a 23-year-old surgeon working at the U.S. Army General Hospital in Washington, and the first person to rush to the president’s box at Ford’s Theatre earlier that evening, asked Dr. Stone if he would assume charge for the president’s care; he agreed.

But the Lincoln family physician and member of the medical faculty at the institution that would become GW had quickly realized there was little that could be done. “We had to wait for the slow exhaustion of that vital energy,” Dr. Stone later said, “which a few short hours before had promised so many years yet to come of happy life and goodness to all men.”

## WHEN THE NATION DIVIDED OVER THE CIVIL WAR, SO TOO WENT THE UNIVERSITY.

In 1825, four years after Columbian College opened its doors, the future George Washington University added a medical department—the first in the capital and only the 11th in the nation. In the 1840s, the growing medical school began operating out of the Washington Infirmary at Judiciary Square, launching the city’s first general hospital. By the start of the Civil War in 1861, what was by then known as the school’s National Medical College stood among the country’s most prestigious medical institutions of higher learning.

But the Civil War brought significant change. Not long after hostilities began in March of 1861, the federal government took over the Washington Infirmary to use as a military hospital. The infirmary, which contained the hospital and medical school offices, then burned to the ground in November. The medical college reopened two years later.

Adding to the Civil War facilities problem was the fact that many medical students and professors left school to join the fight—most on the Confederate side. That included Alexander Yelverton Peyton Garnett, the chair of the National Medical College’s Theory and Practice of Medicine Department.

When war broke out, Dr. Garnett moved back to his native Virginia and became a surgeon in the Confederate Army. He went on to become the personal physician, notably, for Robert E. Lee and his family, as well as for several other high-ranking Confederate generals, many members of the Confederate Cabinet and Congress, and Confederate States of America President Jefferson Davis.

GW also contributed the family physician to the president of the United States in Dr. Stone, who has been described as “the dean of the Washington medical community.” President Lincoln met Dr. Stone in February of 1861, soon after moving to Washington with his family.

“I am personally acquainted with Dr. Stone,” Lincoln wrote to William Hammond, the surgeon general of the U.S. Army, and I “believe him to be a skilful [sic] physician, altogether capable.” The president then asked the skillful, capable doctor to become his family’s physician.



Dr. Stone, for his part, was an admirer of the 16th U.S. president. Mr. Lincoln, he told a friend, was “the purest hearted man with whom I ever came in contact.”

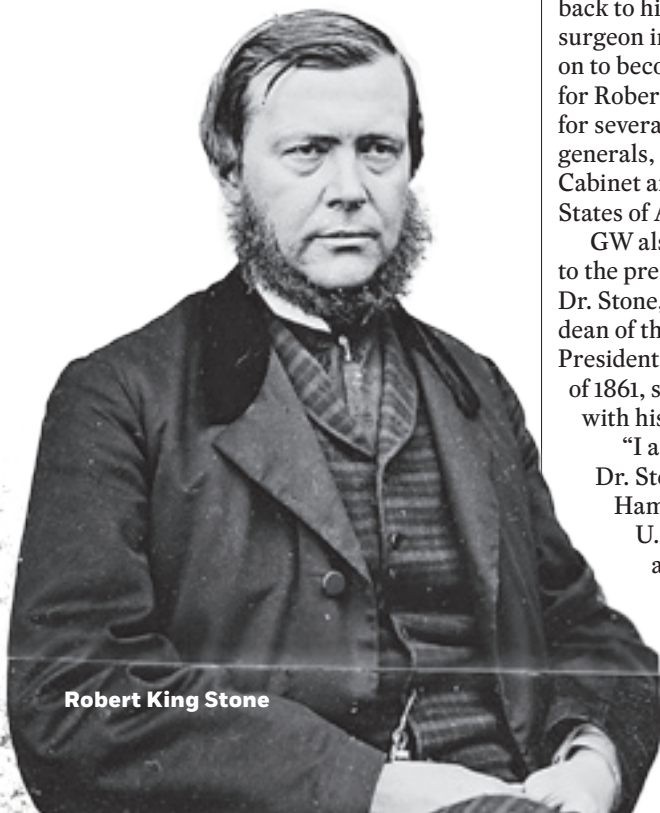
Dr. Stone was born in 1822 in Washington. He received an undergraduate degree from Princeton in 1842 and his medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania three years later. He then went abroad—to Edinburgh, Paris and Vienna—for specialized eye and ear medical training. He returned to Washington in 1847 to open his own medical practice.

Soon thereafter, Dr. Stone was appointed professor of anatomy and physiology at the National Medical College. He served as its dean in 1853 and later became professor of ophthalmic and aural surgery and, in 1860, professor of clinical surgery. He was president of the D.C. Board of Health from 1858 to 1861.

For nearly four years Dr. Stone ministered to the entire first family: the president, his wife Mary Todd Lincoln and their sons Robert Todd (who was 17 when the Lincolns came to town), William Wallace (known as Willie, the Lincolns’ favorite child, who was 10), and Thomas (known as Tad, aged 8).

Dr. Stone “became a more or less frequent caller on the president and his family,” Milton Shutes wrote in his 1933 book *Lincoln and the Doctors*. “Mrs. Lincoln suffered much from attacks of severe headache [probably migraines], and the children had the usual aches and pains of which most children complain. Tad was born with a partial cleft palate, and his pronunciation of certain words suffered accordingly.”

In February of 1862, Dr. Stone treated Willie and Tad when they came down with what most likely was typhoid fever caused by the notoriously sewage-contaminated drinking water at the White House. Tad survived. Willie did not. The 11-year-old died in his bed in the White House on Feb. 20.



Robert King Stone





An 1864 lithograph by Charles Magnus shows the Carver Barracks on the campus of Columbian College. On orders of President Abraham Lincoln, much of the campus was taken over by the federal government for use as two Army hospitals, barracks, accommodations for the sick and troop quarters.

## BY EARLY 1865, THE ALMOST UNIMAGINABLE EXTENT OF THE SLAUGHTER OF THE CIVIL WAR HAD TAKEN ITS TOLL EMOTIONALLY AND PHYSICALLY ON ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

One needs only to compare photographs of him from four years earlier to ones taken early in 1865 to see how precipitously the president's health had declined.

Early in February Mr. Lincoln's personal physician worried that the president was near exhaustion when he fainted during an argument with Attorney General James Speed over pardoning soldiers for desertion. According to Dr. Shutes, the author, Dr. Stone ordered the president to rest in bed for "an entire day and night, and with another warning insisted on more rest and shorter working hours."

Two weeks later Mr. Lincoln "looked badly and felt badly," his old friend from Illinois, Orville H. Browning, later wrote. Mr. Lincoln, he went on to say, was "apparently more depressed than I have seen him since he became president."

Despite the depression and the nervous exhaustion, Mr. Lincoln did not slow down in the following months. He continued to direct the Union effort as the Civil War wound down. The emotionally drained president summoned the strength to deliver his memorable, religiously themed "with malice toward none; with charity for all" second inaugural address on March 4.

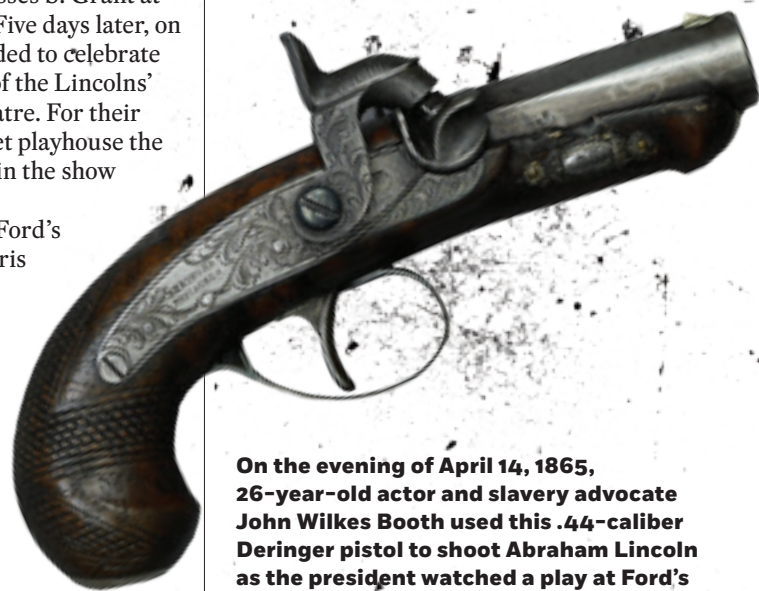
"Fondly do we hope—ferverently do we pray—that this mighty scourge of war may speedily pass away," Mr. Lincoln said. "Yet, if God wills that it continue, so still it must be said 'the judgments of the Lord, are true and righteous altogether.'"

The war continued for four more weeks. Then, on April 9, 1865, hostilities ceased when Robert E. Lee surrendered the Army of Northern Virginia to Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House. Five days later, on April 14, the president decided to celebrate with an evening out at one of the Lincolns' favorite venues, Ford's Theatre. For their eighth visit to the 10th Street playhouse the first couple decided to take in the show "Our American Cousin."

The Lincolns arrived at Ford's with their guests Clara Harris and Army Maj. Henry Rathbone at around 8:30 p.m. At a little past 10 p.m., near the beginning of the second scene in the third act, actor and Confederate partisan John Wilkes Booth barged into the Lincolns' box armed with a derringer and hunting knife.

Mr. Booth shot Mr. Lincoln in the head at point-blank range and stabbed Maj. Rathbone, then jumped over the balcony onto the stage, breaking his left leg in the process. After he hit the stage, Mr. Booth shouted Virginia's state motto: "Sic Temper Tyrannis" ("As Always to Tyrants"), then limped away and escaped.

Dr. Stone was not at Ford's Theatre that night. The first physician who made it into the presidential box after the shooting was



On the evening of April 14, 1865, 26-year-old actor and slavery advocate John Wilkes Booth used this .44-caliber Deringer pistol to shoot Abraham Lincoln as the president watched a play at Ford's Theatre. The gun held a single shot, a lead ball that weighed nearly an ounce. Mr. Lincoln died the next morning.





SURRAT.                      BOOTH                      HAROLD.

War Department, Washington, April 20, 1865,

 **\$100,000 REWARD!**

**THE MURDERER**

Of our late beloved President, Abraham Lincoln,  
**IS STILL AT LARGE.**

**\$50,000 REWARD**  
Will be paid by this Department for his apprehension, in addition to any reward offered by Municipal Authorities or State Executives.

**\$25,000 REWARD**  
Will be paid for the apprehension of JOHN H. SURRATT, one of Booth's Accomplices.

**\$25,000 REWARD**  
Will be paid for the apprehension of David C. Harold, another of Booth's accomplices.

**LIBERAL REWARDS** will be paid for any information that shall conduce to the arrest of either of the above-named criminals, or their accomplices.

All persons harboring or concealing the said persons, or either of them, or aiding or assisting their concealment or escape, will be treated as accomplices in the murder of the President and the attempted assassination of the Secretary of State, and shall be subject to trial before a Military Commission and the punishment of DEATH.

Let the stain of innocent blood be removed from the land by the arrest and punishment of the murderers.

All good citizens are exhorted to aid public justice on this occasion. Every man should consider his own conscience charged with this solemn duty, and red neither night nor day until it be accomplished.

**EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War.**

**DESCRIPTIONS.**—BOOTH is Five Feet 7 or 8 inches high, slender build, high forehead, black hair, black eyes, and wears a heavy black moustache.

JOHN H. SURRATT is about 5 feet 9 inches. Hair rather thin and dark; eyes rather light; no beard. Would weigh 145 or 150 pounds. Complexion rather pale and clear, with color in his cheeks. Wore light clothes of fine quality. Shoulders square; cheek bones prominent; chin narrow; ears projecting at the top; forehead rather low and square, but broad. Part of his hair on the right side; neck rather long. His eyes are firmly set. A slim man.

DAVID C. HAROLD is five feet six inches high, hair dark, eyes dark, eyebrows rather heavy, full face, nose short, hand short and fleshy, feet small, instep high, round bodied, naturally quick and active, slightly closes his eyes when looking at a person.

**NOTICE.**—In addition to the above, State and other authorities have offered rewards amounting to almost one hundred thousand dollars, making an aggregate of about **TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS.**

The government offered a reward for the capture of John Wilkes Booth and alleged accomplices in what had been a wider murder plot, which also was to include Vice President Andrew Johnson and Secretary of State William Seward.

Dr. Leale, the 23-year-old surgeon working at the U.S. Army General Hospital.

Not long after the shot rang out, Dr. Leale “ran to the president’s box and as soon as the door was opened, was admitted and introduced to Mrs. Lincoln,” he later wrote. She “exclaimed several times, ‘O Doctor, do what you can for my dear husband’” and “send for Dr. Stone.”

Mr. Lincoln, he recalled, “was in a state of general paralysis.” The president’s eyes were closed and “he was in a profoundly comatose condition, while his breathing was intermittent” and extremely labored.

The second doctor to make his way into the Lincoln box and tend to the stricken president was Albert Freeman Africanus King, an 1861 graduate of GW’s National Medical College who was a lecturer there in toxicology and had served as a Union Army surgeon. Dr. King, who was sitting in the dress circle near the Lincoln box, arrived very soon after Dr. Leale had made his way to Mr. Lincoln’s side, followed by Charles Sabin Taft, a 30-year-old Army surgeon.

Drs. Leale, King and Taft agreed it would be best to move the president to “the nearest house,” according to Dr. Leale. A group of men (including Dr. King, who supported Mr. Lincoln’s left shoulder) carried the unconscious president across the street to a boarding house owned by William and Anna Petersen. They placed the president on a bed in a back bedroom—a “plain but comfortable apartment,” as Dr. Stone later put it—about 20 minutes after he was shot.

Dr. Stone arrived and, as he later described, he found Mr. Lincoln “surrounded by sympathizing fellow citizens whose very hands seem wrung with love, but who, in spite of the exasperating ugliness of the act, still controlled the longing of their aroused passions and maintained a discreet silence around his humble couch.”

Fourteen physicians attended Abraham Lincoln that night in the townhouse. The group included three National Medical College instructors—Drs. Stone, King and John Frederick May, AB ’31, MD ’34—as well as Surgeon General of the Army Joseph K. Barnes, Army Assistant Surgeon General Charles H. Crane and Army surgeon D. Willard Bliss, along with Charles A. Lieberman, the president of the D.C. Medical Society.

According to Dr. Stone, Dr. Taft “held the president’s head.” Drs. Leale, Lieberman, King and Ford made “every attempt to render the president air and afford him every comfort.”

Right after he arrived, Dr. Stone said, he “proceeded to the exploration of the wound.” Mr. Lincoln was “perfectly passive on his back as if quietly asleep, without any



distortion of features though at times his respiration was somewhat” labored.

Dr. Stone “instantly” saw that the president had been shot by a gun in “the back part of the left side of his head, into which I carried immediately my finger.”

Mr. Lincoln’s “hair or scalp was not in the least burnt,” Dr. Stone reported. “The edges of the wound were sharp and distinct. On probing the wound, with the finger, the projectile was found to have cut a distinct and perfectly round aperture.”

He had quickly realized “that the case was a hopeless one; that the president would die.” Mr. Lincoln’s “vital tenacity was very strong,” Dr. Stone said, “and he would resist as long as any man could, but death certainly would soon close the scene.”

The doctors applied mustard poultices to Mr. Lincoln’s abdomen and arms and legs, he recalled, and “bottles and jugs of hot water were placed near him and his extremities.” But “all aid was useless in a wound of this character.”

As Dr. Stone inferred, there was little the assembled team of top-flight physicians could do for the president except monitor his pulse and keep an all-night deathwatch at his bedside. When, just before 7 a.m., it appeared that Mr. Lincoln had stopped breathing, Dr. Barnes “held his finger to the carotid artery,” Dr. Leale said. “Col. Crane held his head. Dr. Stone, who was sitting on the bed, held his left pulse, and his right pulse was held by myself.”

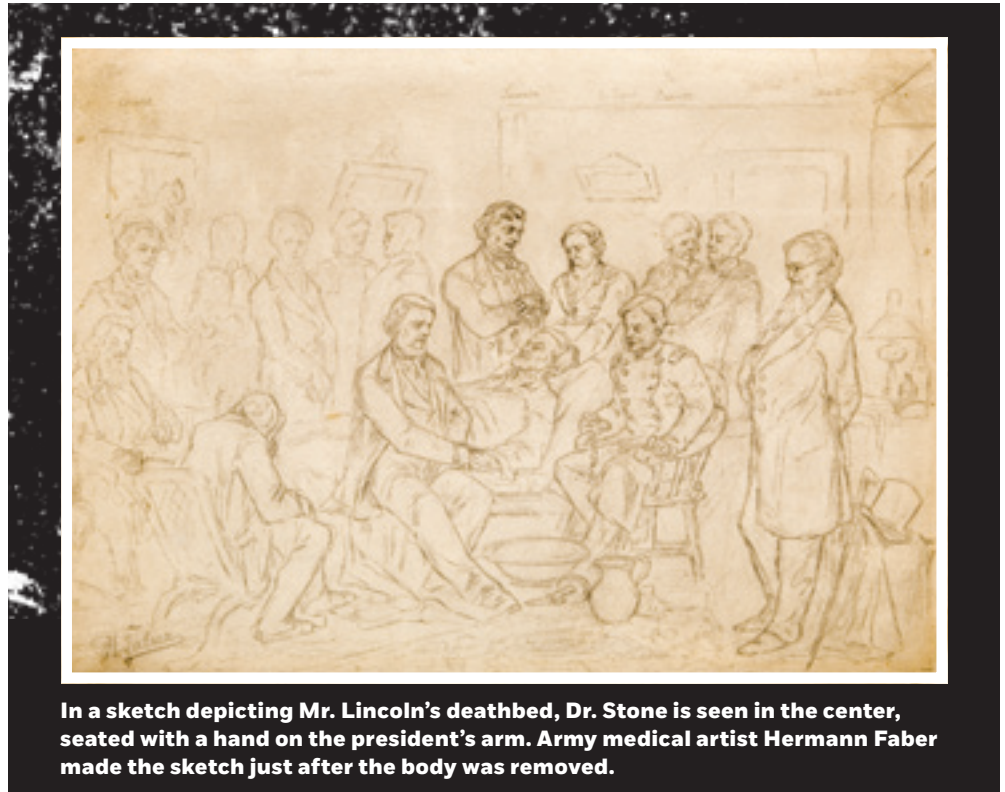
As Dr. Stone put it: “I remained with him doing whatever was in my power, assisted by my friends, to aid him, but of course, nothing could be done, and he died... at about half past seven o’clock.”

Death, he wrote, “closed the scene. He slept.”

## ROBERT KING STONE'S FIRST JOB AFTER ABRAHAM LINCOLN EXPIRED WAS TO TEND TO THE FAMILY.

“The shock of her husband’s death had brought about a nervous disorder” in Mary Todd Lincoln, one observer remembered. “Her physician, Doctor Stone, refused to allow her to be moved [from the White House] until she was somewhat restored.”

After seeing to Mrs. Lincoln, Dr. Stone went on to preside at her husband’s autopsy. It began at 11 the next morning in



In a sketch depicting Mr. Lincoln’s deathbed, Dr. Stone is seen in the center, seated with a hand on the president’s arm. Army medical artist Hermann Faber made the sketch just after the body was removed.

the Guest Room on the second floor of the White House, three and a half hours after the president had died.

Joseph J. Woodward, a prominent Philadelphia pathologist who served as a Union Army surgeon in the Civil War, and Edward Curtis, a fellow Army surgeon who was working in the brand-new Army Medical Museum in Washington, performed the autopsy. Mr. Lincoln’s body was placed on a table moved into the room for the occasion.

In addition to Drs. Woodward, Curtis and Stone, the others in the autopsy room were Drs. Crane, Barnes and Taft, along with former Army surgeon William Notson, who had been at Ford’s Theatre. U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Christopher Augur (who commanded Union forces in Washington), and the incoming president, Andrew Johnson, also were in the room.


Dr. Curtis later wrote of the moment when he and Dr. Woodward found the bullet in the president’s brain. “There it lay upon the white china, a little black mass no bigger than the end of my finger,” he recalled, “dull, motionless and harmless, yet the cause of such mighty changes in the world’s history as we may perhaps never realize.”

Following the autopsy, Drs. Stone and Taft took charge of the fatal bullet. They gave it to Secretary of War Edwin Stanton, who placed it—along with a tiny bone fragment from Mr. Lincoln’s skull and the probe used in the procedure—in sealed envelopes. The items today are on display at the National Museum of Health and Medicine in Silver

Spring, Md.

Dr. Lieberman had clipped a few strands of the president’s hair around the wound at his bedside. He gave them to Dr. Stone at the autopsy. After the procedure ended, Dr. Stone presented a lock of Mr. Lincoln’s hair to his widow and to each of his fellow physicians at the autopsy.

Closure of the affair, however, was still to come. GW’s John Frederick May, one of the physicians at the president’s deathbed, was called upon to help make a positive identification of the body of Mr. Lincoln’s assassin, who had been hunted down and killed on April 26 in Port Royal, Va., 17 days after fleeing the scene at Ford’s Theatre.

Dr. May examined the deceased aboard the *USS Montauk* the following day, along with several other physicians. He confirmed that the dead man was the same person he had operated on two years earlier to remove a fibroid tumor from the back of his neck: John Wilkes Booth. 

*Historian and journalist Marc Leepson is the author of eight books. His most recent is What So Proudly We Hailed: Francis Scott Key, A Life (Palgrave Macmillan, 2014), the first biography of the author of “The Star-Spangled Banner” from a major publisher in more than 75 years.*



**A new species of natural-born spies, discovered by a GW biologist, could help answer one of evolution's most puzzling questions.**

**/ BY LAUREN INGENO /**

# **HIDDEN BRILLI LY**





ILLUSTRATIONS: FRANCELYN FERNANDEZ

**“If you want to explain what happened to life on earth as it evolved, parasitism is one of the biggest riddles to solve. Why is it evolutionarily beneficial for a society to give up its own free existence to depend entirely on other organisms?”**

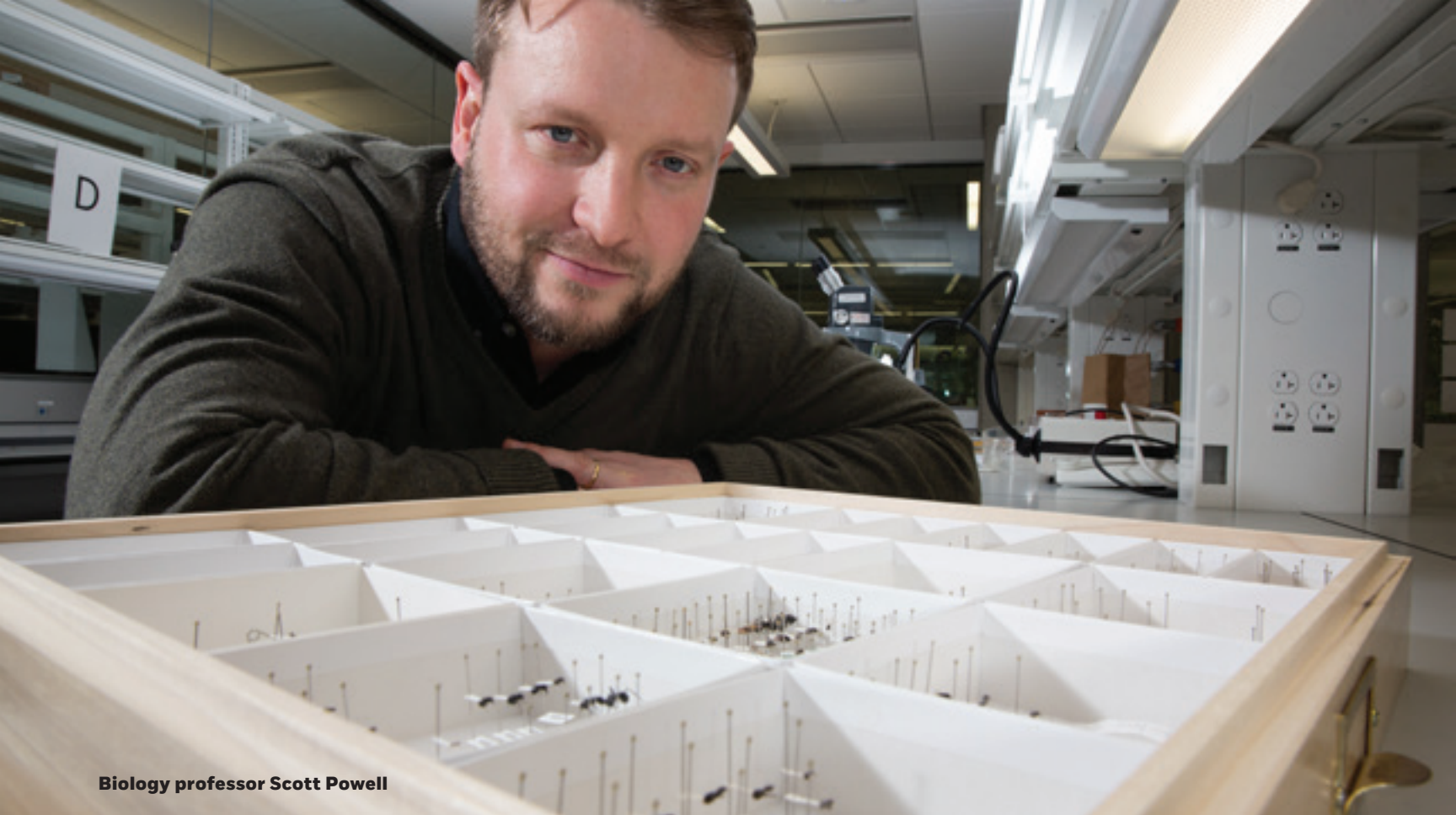
**H**undreds of thousands of belligerent, jet-black ants blanket the low-lying branches of trees in Brazil’s woodland savanna. Poke a finger into their turf, and you’ll suffer a shot of venom from their raised backsides. Insect intruders face far worse: They are seized and dismembered.

Yet scrambling among these defend-to-the-death ants, a group of imposters goes undetected. The mirror turtle ants infiltrate the host’s marching lines under disguise. They steal their food. And they escape unscathed.

Scott Powell, an assistant professor of biology discovered the curious new species while conducting field research at a nature reserve in Uberlândia, Brazil last summer. The mirror turtle ant’s name, *Cephalotes specularis*, derives from both its mirroring of the host’s behavior and its glossy, reflective body.

Following his initial sighting, a series of experiments revealed that Dr. Powell had stumbled upon something much more than a neat new bug. The mirror turtle ant’s behavior represents an entirely new form of social parasitism, an interaction that occurs when one society exploits the social mechanisms of another.

While the aggressive hosts—a species of so-called acrobat ants named *Crematogaster ampla*—are quick to kill invaders who cross



**Biology professor Scott Powell**

**“Humans are highly organized, and we want to make things that are highly organized. And we have a very beautiful, very successful example from nature that we can refer to for inspiration.”**

their paths, mirror turtle ants have adapted remarkable methods to avoid that fate. Other social parasites may enslave, torture and even brainwash their hosts, but these ants use stealth, instead, to leech off their victims.

Mirror turtle ants build a nest just inches away from the host ants’ well-guarded enclave. The ants travel by the thousands on a busy highway system, releasing chemical messages called pheromones to communicate with their fellow workers. During rush hour, the mirror turtle ants dive from their nest and merge into the high-speed traffic. The parasites disguise themselves among the hosts by imitating the workers’ speed, arched bodies and stilt-leg posture. Then they make their way to the host’s food source with an unrivaled ability to eavesdrop on the host’s chemical trails.

This unique combination of physical trickery and pheromone eavesdropping represents a new form of resource-based social parasitism. These behaviors allow the parasitic ants to exploit the host’s resources while expending little in the way of social costs. They are, essentially, nature’s most coordinated freeloaders.

Along the way, the mirror turtle ants are giving Dr. Powell and his team a rare view into the origins of dependent relationships. Though parasitism is the most abundant lifestyle on the planet, it is also perhaps the least understood.

“Every living thing has something that parasitizes it,” Dr. Powell says. “So, if you want to explain what happened to life on Earth as it evolved, parasitism is one of the biggest riddles to solve. Why is it evolutionarily beneficial for a society to give up its own free existence to depend entirely on other organisms?”

#### **‘An Evolutionary Arms Race’**

Understanding how and why parasitism evolves has proven a particular challenge for biologists. Most complex parasitic interactions are hidden inside the host’s nests, making these relationships difficult to observe. And parasites often are so deep into their dependency that they’ve lost key aspects of their original, free-living biology, Dr. Powell says. Researchers, therefore, have little opportunity to discern the costs and benefits of the interaction.

“How do you understand how parasitic worms first became parasitic? Well, the truth is, you can’t, because it’s just too deep into the evolution,” he says. “There are no worms that live equally well inside a human gut and outside a human gut.”

Examples of social parasitism in the ant world, while fascinating, have been equally complicated to study from an evolutionary perspective.

Slave-maker ants, for instance, kidnap offspring from the nests of other species,



# THE MIRROR TURTLE ANT

which often are closely related to the parasite, in order to provide workers for their own colony. The invading queen attacks the resident queen, absorbing her pheromones, and thereby taking on the chemical identity of her victim. She then releases the chemical signals and the ants unknowingly become subservient to a new ruler. They cohabitate in the parasite's colony, where they gather food, feed and groom the larvae, and defend the nest against invaders.

Mirror turtle ants, by contrast, live and care for their own brood in their own nests. Neither the parasite nor its host has lost its ancestral biology or reproductive behaviors. And the parasite-host interaction takes place in the host's foraging arena, rather than the host's nest, giving Dr. Powell and his colleagues an ideal opportunity to observe and test the ants' behaviors.

Using DNA sequencing and an evolutionary tree, which shows relationships among the more than 115 species of turtle ants, Dr. Powell and his team found that the mirror turtle ant is a very young species.

"It's one of the last species branching splits that we've detected within the last million years. That gives us a very recent event to study," he says. "It's an exciting example that does seem early on in its cycle."

"Well, on an evolutionary timescale," he adds.

The new ant gives Dr. Powell insight into the beginning stages of what he calls a classic example of "an evolutionary arms race." The host will, over time, become more sophisticated and sense that its territory is being intruded upon. But at the same time, the parasite will adapt by finding new ways to remain undetected.

"Who knows what will happen 1 million years from now," Dr. Powell says.

For John Hawdon, a parasitology expert in the School of Medicine and Health Sciences, Dr. Powell's discovery is a critical contribution to an understudied field.

"It's fascinating. He's found an intermediate step between a free-living ant colony and a socially parasitized colony," says Dr. Hawdon, an associate professor of microbiology, immunology and tropical medicine, who is unaffiliated with the ant research. "It fits into this puzzle that we know so little about."

The relationship promises to help Dr. Powell better understand the general pressures that tip a species toward a parasitic lifestyle. And ultimately, it could help answer one of evolutionary biology's central questions: how ecological interactions shape the adaptive diversification of life.



## SCIENTIFIC NAME

*Cephalotes specularis*

## ETYMOLOGY

*Cephalotes* is the genus name for turtle ants. The Latin term *speculum* means "mirror," referring both to the ants' mirroring of its host's behaviors and the worker ants' shiny, reflective body.

## DISCOVERED

Summer 2014 by Assistant Professor of Biology Scott Powell

## DESCRIPTION

The queen (pictured above) and the soldiers have distinctive yellow spots, while the workers—which measure up to 5 millimeters in length—are mostly black, in order to better blend in with the host species.

## CHARACTERISTICS

Engages in a new form of resource-based social parasitism of its host, the acrobat ant, or *Crematogaster ampla*. By imitating the host's stilt-leg posture and raised backside, the parasite is able to sneak into enemy territory and remain undetected. Once inside the dense traffic of *C. ampla* foraging trails, the mirror turtle ant follows the host's chemical signals to steal its victim's food. Its lack of total dependence on the host suggests that this relationship is just the beginning of a mounting evolutionary arms race between the species.

## DISTRIBUTION

To the researchers' knowledge, the mirror turtle ant is restricted to the tropical savanna in Uberlândia, Brazil, but more collection efforts may reveal populations of this species in other areas.

### Ant Economics

"I could talk about ants all day," a wide-eyed Dr. Powell says as dozens of tiny brown insects—a domestic species of turtle ants that the researcher collected during his last trip to the Florida Keys—run haphazardly around a palm-sized glass box.

"I love the way you can keep ants. I love how you can manipulate their behavior, and they do just incredible things with their group organization."

Sensing skepticism perhaps, the ecologist lifts the lid of the ants' manmade home and scoops up a few with his hand, letting them scurry along his fingers.

"There are very few animals of any kind that have the kind of sophisticated social organization that ants have," Dr. Powell says.

Ants—like termites, bees and humans—are social creatures that live together in communities and specialize in very specific jobs. Yet, unlike humans, they have no leaders. Ants may be solitarily useless, but the collective unit puts its skills together to communicate, find food and build structures, sometimes thousands of times bigger than an individual insect.

It's no mystery then, that Dr. Powell's early interest in macroeconomics—the big-picture study of economic behavior and trends—eventually led him to ants. He points inside the box to a clump of ant bodies squished against one another like a pile of raisins.

"It looks like just a jumble of ants inside that nest, but actually, every single one of them is highly specialized," he says.

Though scientists aren't sure whether ants are born into their roles or influenced by their environment, each has one specific job, and he or she sticks with that duty for life. Each colony includes one queen, or sometimes several, plus many workers and soldiers. Some ants are responsible for looking after the brood, others clean and repair the nest, and the soldiers protect it. (Like other social insects, female ants do all of the work. Males, which look more like wasps, simply mate and then die quickly

afterward.)

Not only are ants abundant and highly organized, but they are also highly diverse, with more than 13,000 known species that have adapted to survive in terrains all over the world.

"They are one of the greatest evolutionary success stories," Dr. Powell says.

Among the turtle ant species, one of his primary areas of focus, there is a five-fold difference in body length between the workers of the smallest and largest species. The smallest could, in fact, ride comfortably on the head of the largest. Soldiers, too—characterized by their large, shield-like heads, which they use to block the nest entry—vary by species in body type, as well as head size and shape.

When threatened, turtle ant workers pull their appendages under their shell-like shielding. That "turtling behavior" and extensive body armor protect these slow-moving insects when foraging in their hostile canopy. (The newly discovered mirror turtle ants, however, are actually quite fast—an adaptation that allows them to dart away from their aggressive hosts.)

"They don't have stingers or venom. That's really their whole defense," Dr. Powell says.

Ants, with their well-regimented division of labor and clever behaviors, may have something to teach Earth's dominant social animal.

"Humans are highly organized, and we want to make things that are highly organized. And we have a very beautiful, very successful example from nature that we can refer to for inspiration," Dr. Powell says.

For instance, in collaboration with roboticists at Harvard University and computer scientists at the New Jersey Institute of Technology, Dr. Powell is using army ants, another group in his research portfolio, as a model for creating self-organizing swarms of robots. Developing a mixture of cheap, simple units to arrange themselves into complex shapes could have a number of implications, including in manufacturing and in leading search-and-rescue missions.

While the engineers have figured out how to make robots interact on a flat surface, Dr. Powell says, the units can't solve problems like how to climb on one another. That's where his ants come into play.

Army ants are known for their remarkable ability to build structures collectively with their bodies. Hundreds of ants from one species, for instance, can weave their bodies together to form a bridge between branches.

He is designing experiments to better understand the rules these ants follow to

LEFT TO RIGHT **An ant from the host species, *Crematogaster ampla*, strikes a defensive, raised-backside pose. A mirror turtle ant imitates the posture as part of its deception.**







engineer such infrastructure. His colleagues then will translate the biological processes into decision-making algorithms, which can be implemented in robots.

“We are trying to develop technology to behave exactly like ant colonies,” Dr. Powell says. “So, yeah, they’re just ants. But many of the things they do that make them successful are exactly the things that make us successful. We can learn a lot from them.”

### Tiny Wonders

Some of biology’s biggest questions, Dr. Powell says, are best tackled by examining the minutiae. It would be impossible to study every host-parasite interaction in the world. But observing the right one, at the right time, has the potential to fill in knowledge gaps and inform the bigger picture.

The discovery of mirror turtle ants is only the beginning of the species’ potential in that realm, Dr. Powell says. His team is planning experiments to better understand the costs of the relationship to the host, the costs to the parasite and to find out how mirror turtle ants might fare if they lived independently.

To do that, the researchers will collect colonies within the host territory and transplant them to artificial nests, keeping the two species separated.

“We can mess with that dependency, and we can then look at growth rates to see how splitting away from the host is influencing

the parasites,” he says.

The researchers are also interested in manipulating the ants’ mimicry to get a better view of its role in the deception. For instance, they will add spots of colored dye to their black bodies or glue strips to their backsides so the ants will be unable to raise them in imitation. (“It is a little mean,” Dr. Powell admits.)

Whether their biological toolkit or complex social interactions will influence the understanding of parasitism or have applications in our own society is an open question. But there’s no reason to discount it.

Though insignificant to the untrained eye, ants may just be humans’ most unlikely source of inspiration. And the diverse, eccentric world of turtle ants species, in particular, never ceases to amaze and excite Dr. Powell.

In the ecologist’s office, an ant suddenly escapes from his hand and makes a run for it on to the table. When he brings down a crushing finger on top of her, she seems a goner. But he slides her back into his palm and she darts about, seemingly unharmed.

He smiles. “They’re like mini tanks.” GM

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT **A mirror turtle ant worker returns to the nest, which a soldier ant guards with its head; a colony of army ants creates a hanging bridge between a branch and a tree trunk; a mirror turtle ant (center) feeds on a baited leaf undetected by the host-species ants to its left and right; Dr. Powell observes mirror turtle ants from a tree in Brazil**

**Think mirror turtle ants are devious? Meet their peers. Turn to Institutional Knowledge on the back page.**



*The*

BABY  
BOOM

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*They are stories of joy and promise, of relief and heartbreak—and, yes, there is pain, but there is also Herculean strength. For this issue of the magazine, which spans the dates of both Mother's Day and Father's Day, we invited alumni to share with us stories of the day they became parents. It's one of those moments that has the potential strip away much of the life we manufacture and present humanity, bare and vulnerable. It's a moment that has the capacity to change the chemistry of everything.*

**Edited by Danny Freedman, BA '01; Illustrations by Minhee Kim**





## I WILL NEVER FORGET

the first time we saw our son, Evan. We weren't 100 percent sure it was even him, but there was a little butterball strapped on his foster mom's back and he looked like an older version of the boy we saw in our match pictures.

"Do you think that's him?" I asked.

"It totally is," my husband said. Kenny and I were in the waiting area of an adoption agency in Seoul waiting to meet our son. We smiled and waved at him, but this cute little boy just stared at us like we were Martians. We waited for our translator to bring us to a family meeting room.

Sure enough, that was our son. Kenny and I sat down on one couch and 11-month-old Evan and his foster mom (we call her Umma, which is Korean for mom) sat down on the other. She sat him in her lap facing us,

but all he wanted to do was snuggle into her and hide from the strangers in the room. I realized then that this was going to be much harder than I thought.

Kenny and I both tried to hold Evan, but he just cried and called for his Umma. "Stranger danger" had taken its hold already. The meeting ended with Evan clinging to Umma for dear life. The next meeting would be to take him home with us, and we were nervous.

After a similar encounter, Umma carried Evan outside while we followed. A cab was waiting. She was smiling and Evan was happy. I snuck in and took Evan, and we were in the cab before he even knew who was holding him. I looked out the window and Umma was watching and I'm pretty sure she was emotional, but at that point Evan was crying and I couldn't be sure. The cab driver pulled away and that was it.

I felt awful, like I had ripped away the

one stable thing in his life. I had second thoughts about doing it, but I knew that each day would be a little better. He cried for 10 minutes and then passed out in my arms.

We left for the airport early the next morning. The first part of the flight was great, but for the last seven hours back to the U.S. he cried for his Umma. He wore himself out 30 minutes prior to descent. And he slept the whole way back to our house. When he woke up, it was like a switch had flipped. He trusted us, he came to us when he was scared, he smiled when we smiled.

It was the hardest thing I have ever done, but hands down I would do it again. He was meant to be with us, of that I'm sure.

**—Hannah Weiner, BA '01, is a nurse practitioner. She lives in O'Fallon, Ill., with her husband, Kenny, BA '00, a major in the U.S. Air Force, and their two children.**

# THE MOST INTERESTING PART OF MOTHERHOOD IS,

hands down, labor and birth.

Yes, babies are cute and you want to eat their chubby arms and legs, etc., but nothing is as compelling as the primitive, epic opera that opens with the bag of water breaking or the mucus plug shooting out like a champagne cork.

Let's consider the whole effacing/dilation thing, a body maneuver that is unequaled on our planet. I liken it to opening a rusty, unused drawbridge by turning a big creaky crank, except a drawbridge doesn't have pain receptors. Just this one time, the body steps outside the realm of reality to do something weird and magical: It changes dimensions to let the cargo out.

The language of labor is all Middle Ages and Merlinish. Without any calipers in sight, any passerby seems to know to the *-nth* how far the drawbridge has opened. The cleaning lady comes in and takes a look. "Only three



centimeters, dearie. You've got a ways."

Think about what nature is asking you to do. Who in their right mind would think it was possible to get an eight-and-a-half-pound baby out of a woman's body without collateral damage. That's when they created the word "asunder." Then there's the placenta—without any prompting, you grow a complicated Rube-Goldberg looking thing as well as a complete, perfect baby.

When the royals had George I worried about Kate. Let's not forget that the queen's gynecologist was officiating. She might as well have had the Bishop of Canterbury delivering the baby. How could anything natural happen in that room? How could she abandon herself to all the screams and WTF's? When they said on the news "she delivered vaginally," I almost fell with relief.

I was surprised they even know that word in England.

When a woman has a baby, she is changed forever. Kate turned bossy, and our beloved bad girl, Snooki, became exemplary and self-controlled. Snooki said she is different now. We're all different. I'm talking about a certain, almost grim confidence. Giving birth took us to a strange place and things were never to be the same again.

**—Consuelo Saah Baehr, AA '60, is a novelist and blogger ([consuelosaaahaehr.com](http://consuelosaaahaehr.com)) in East Hampton, NY. She has three children.**



## IT'S FUNNY WHAT YOU REMEMBER

looking back at those moments when your whole life is about to change. It was toward the end of the day when I received a call from my wife, Jessica. She was experiencing contractions. I packed up my stuff, thought about popping a Xanax (or a few) and headed home. It was only a matter of time before we would head to the hospital, so I needed to make sure we got food into our systems quickly. The sandwich I picked up for myself was horrible! The bread was cold, the turkey was dry, the lettuce was wilted. Not the best of meals to sustain a man for the next one-and-a-half days.

When we got settled into our hospital room, I was freezing. I remember telling Jessica how cold it was, at which point she told me it felt like there was a furnace by her side. The nurse could tell how cold I looked and brought me a heated blanket. The details are hazy from there. I remember Jessica getting the epidural and holding my hand tightly during it, my dad walking into our room by mistake and seeing more than anyone wanted to see, and Jessica pushing tirelessly until the doctor recommended a cesarean.

Even though I don't remember everything that happened, I do remember the end result vividly: a beautiful baby girl named Abigail who I can't imagine being without.

**—Josh Schimmerling, BBA '04, MA '06, lives in Alexandria, Va., with his wife, Jessica, BA '05, MA '09. He is the director of project management in GW's Department of Marketing & Creative Services.**





## HAVING A CHILD CHANGED MY LIFE SO MUCH SO,

that I could only go through the experience once. So yes, my son Zeplyn Xavier is an only child. I remember laughing uncontrollably after the final push. I also remember the joy, tears, relief that he was healthy and a feeling of deep love that I have still not been able to describe.

It's been said that the two most important days in your life are the day you were born and the day you find out why. The "why" for me was the moment my son opened his eyes to this brand new world. What became increasingly important to me was how well I used the dash between the day I was born and the day I die.

One thing I know for sure is that no child has ever asked to come into this world but now that my child was here, selfish or not, I wanted the world to be a better place not only for him but for every child. I remember calling my mother and thanking her for raising my two sisters and me and for taking the time to teach, train and talk us through the various stages of development.

I began writing a gratitude journal thanking God each day for three things in my life, and I always began with: "Dear God, thank you for giving me the gift of my son." The birth of my "little" boy helped me to dream bigger, work smarter, love deeper, forgive better, pray longer and reach higher understanding that every decision that would be made, from that day on, would be with his best interest in mind.

It has been 22 years since that day, and I still believe that my greatest accomplishment has not been as that of a CEO, speaker, educator, author or "America's Supernanny." It has been being a mother who didn't raise her son perfectly, but most definitely raised him passionately on purpose!

**—Deborah Tillman, MA '02, is the founder and CEO of Happy Home Child Learning Centers Inc. and stars as "America's Supernanny" on Lifetime Television.**



## THE DAY MY DAUGHTER WAS BORN,

I would have given anything to hear her cry. Instead there was only silence and a small, exhausted face blinking back at me.

The doctor held her there for an instant—just long enough for me to announce, "It's a girl!"—then passed her to a team standing by. In the hormonal brain melt of the moment, I beamed and tried to steal glimpses of her between the working arms of doctors across the room. My wife, a pediatrician, lay without a word. Sensing my denial of the situation's gravity, my wife turned to me and said: "She's not breathing."

She did breathe soon afterward, with help. And she cried—she wailed, a full-term baby devouring the somber quietude of the neonatal intensive care unit, where doctors are more accustomed to the soft bleating of preemies.

The trauma of Nora's birth and resuscitation left her with infected blood, kidney damage and a punctured lung. She had breathing tubes up her nose and one arm bound up in a splint to guard an IV and the cords that tethered her to beeping machines. To touch her, which at first only seemed to

cause her more pain, we had to scrub in like surgeons and reach through portholes in the plastic walls of her isolette.

She was beaten up by life and barely stable, but she was on the mend. And there's nothing like improving in the NICU to make one's good fortune blindingly clear.

It was a five-day eternity until she was free of tubes, IVs and wires and moved into a crib. Now, two years later, the time at the hospital is something of a ghost. It's a faint presence that lingers just beyond belief over the giggling little girl who sings "Happy Birthday" to her pasta and insists on kissing *our* boo-boos.

That first night, as my wife and I inched back down the hallways in the maternity ward, the cries of newborns seemed to come from behind every door. If we got through this, I thought, I would never resent my daughter's cries, no matter how loud or interminable.

Late that night we went to sleep feeling inside out and set adrift, caught up in Nora's current for the very first time. It was a feeling I recognize well now. We felt like parents.

**—Danny Freedman, BA '01, is the managing editor of GW Magazine. He lives in D.C. with his wife, Angela, BA '01, MD '05.**

## MY FIRST CHILD, SAMANTHA,

was born on June 8, 1990—her due date! Knowing what I do now about this magnificent child, it is not at all surprising that she arrived right on time. She is a very organized and punctual young lady.

I was a second-year pediatric resident when I became pregnant with Sam. When I went into labor we headed to the hospital and, since I was a resident there, we received the VIP treatment. I did not, however, anticipate the constant visits to my room by colleagues and friends throughout a painful, 18-hour labor—even during pushing!

I pushed for about three hours before the obstetrician broke my tailbone and used a vacuum to extract her. She came out screaming, and I breathed a sigh of relief because I had seen every possible delivery-room nightmare during my residency.

I was so concerned about whether she was OK that it did not occur to me to ask whether she was a boy or a girl. Quite a bit of time went by before I remembered to ask, and I was overjoyed to hear. We had already chosen a name, Samantha Michelle. She was named after my two recently deceased grandfathers, Sam and Milton. Saying her name for the first time brought a rush of emotion as I remembered my beloved grandfathers. I wished with all my heart that they could have been there to see this precious baby girl.

Sam was the first grandchild/great-grandchild, and everyone was over the moon. Back in my room, my grandmother (the one married to Sam) became teary as she repeated the baby's name, "Sammy," the name of her lifetime love and soulmate.

Two years later, Sam was joined by our second daughter, Stephanie, who is named for my grandmother Sylvia, who passed away one month before she was born. They are the joy of our life and the center of our universe.

**—Ellen Leschek, MD '88, is a program director at the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, living in Germantown, Md.**



## FOURTEEN YEARS AGO,

on our first date, I asked my wife how her life would be different if everything went as she hoped, and she replied that she would be fostering medically fragile children. Five years later—married and trained to be foster parents—9-month-old Allondra came to live with us.

On a vacation to St. Kitts, my wife, Jill, told me about a little girl on the unit at Johns Hopkins, where she worked as a pediatric nurse. The other nurses would joke that the little girl, all alone on Children's Six, was meant to be her daughter. Right then, we realized we would be out nothing but an international call to find out if she could come live with us.

As a nurse, most of Allondra's medical care fell on Jill's shoulders. Allondra was born with a heart condition and, by the time she came home with us, she had already had her first heart surgery, gotten over drug addiction and had a stroke. (She is one resilient cookie.) But after a few months I could see it wearing Jill down. I told her to take a weekend to visit her friend.

I was having terrible headaches then and that weekend, for the first time, I woke up with a headache accompanied by blurry sight. (I was later diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, and that weekend it was flaring.) When it was time to take Allondra downstairs for her food and meds, I worried because I could not see well enough to fill the syringes accurately.

As I carried her down, she put her hand up over one of my eyes and I realized I could see if I closed one eye. I alternated eyes all weekend, and I was proud we had been able to overcome one of life's little obstacles.

Just stick with the ones we love, do not panic and everything will work itself out. Nine years later, we are a family of five with complex medical issues, dealing with whatever life throws at us. A sense of family and belonging is a powerful force allowing us to thrive under circumstances some might characterize as difficult. For our family, it is just a good life.

**—Geoffrey Hill, CERT '07, lives in Odenton, Md., with his wife and three children. He blogs about his family's experiences at [thelifewellived.net](http://thelifewellived.net).**



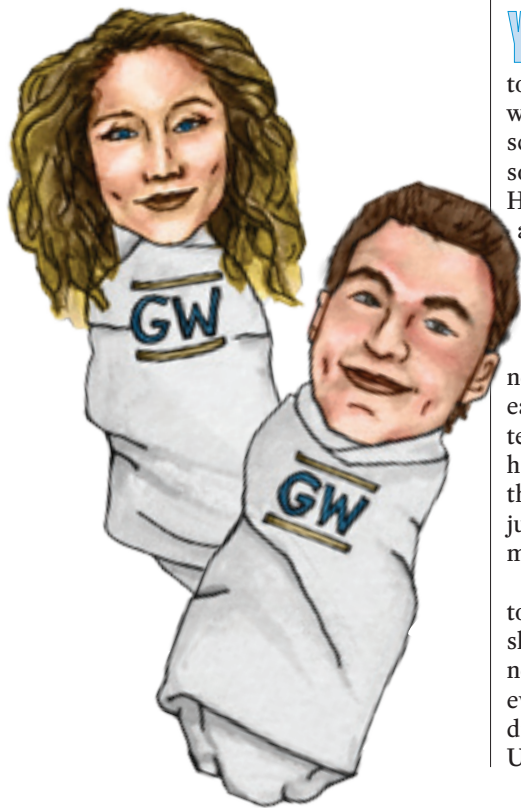


**MY HUSBAND,** Les, and I have six GW degrees between us but never had children of our own whom we could raise and send to GW. To fill that void in our lives, we have bonded with and “adopted” two of our favorite young employees at GW who keep us informed and bring youth and vitality into our lives that we would otherwise miss.

Christopher Rotella, BA '08, MBA '12, associate director of development for strategic markets in Alumni Relations, has parlayed his affection for GW into a successful career of reaching out to alumni and finding commonalities that can be fostered and strengthened. And Melissa Stires, the travel scheduler for President Steven Knapp also brings us bountiful joy, as she continually introduces us to other GW employees and alumni whom she feels we should get to know.

Both these young, vibrant, talented GW employees know that connections, bonds and relationships are the ties that keep families together, and Les and I are so grateful both are part of our lives. What better “children” could a couple hope for?

—**Kathy Megyeri, MA '69, MA '82, and Les Megyeri, BA '63, JD '68, BA '73, MBA '80, live in Washington, D.C.**



“And when he finally arrived, I had the same thought that all dads must have upon first beholding their sons: ‘I will never let anything bad happen to him.’”

**“MAYBE YOU JUST PEEED YOUR PANTS?”**

was my response to my wife’s declaration that her water had broken. As a man of science, I am skeptical of any so-called evidence put before me. However, it was 1:30 in the morning and, having just been torn from a cozy slumber, my denial might have had an ulterior motive.

I was now 0-for-2 on my fatherly responses to the big news: Seven and a half months earlier, when my wife woke me to tell me that she was pregnant by handing me the E.P.T. stick, all that I could muster was, “Did you just pee on this and then hand it to me?”

I clearly had some charming to do, but first, I went back to sleep. Mommy-to-be spent the next few hours in a warm tub and, eventually, I managed to get myself dressed and put my game face on. Understand: I was excited and I

had planned on unparalleled chivalry, but for some reason I decided that this would be an excellent time for a spousal debate about health insurance or the toothpaste cap or something else stupid. At one point, I actually decided that we should go to the hospital separately. That’s right, I suggested separate cars.

Finally, realizing that if my co-workers (I work at the hospital) saw my wife arriving in labor alone I would never live it down, I pulled myself together and, at long last, started behaving the way I had always imagined that I would—the way my father did and his father before him. And when he finally arrived, I had the same thought that all dads must have upon first beholding their sons: “I will never let anything bad happen to him.” <sup>GW</sup>

—**Thomas McDonald, MD '03, lives in Sonora, Calif., and is an orthopedic surgeon specializing in hand surgery.**



 To read more stories from alumni parents, visit [gwmagazine.com](http://gwmagazine.com).

# PHILANTHROPY UPDATE



Junior guard Joe McDonald dons a “Making History” shirt during a campaign event at the Feb. 6 men’s basketball game. His buzzer-beater that night propelled the team to a win.

## PHILANTHROPIC CAMPAIGN PASSES \$700M

### ‘Making History’ funding fuels support for students, academics, research and capital projects

Eight months after the public launch of the largest philanthropic campaign in GW’s nearly 200-year history, the university announced in February that the endeavor has raised more than \$700 million so far.

The \$1 billion philanthropic effort, called “Making History: The Campaign for GW,” will bring the university into its third century by supporting its “Vision 2021” strategic plan.

“The total, as of this morning, is almost \$715 million,” George Washington President Steven Knapp said at a meeting of the Board of Trustees on Feb. 6. “The campaign is proceeding very effectively. What we want to do is maintain and accelerate its process.”

“Making History,” which began with a quiet phase in July 2011, launched publicly last June at George Washington’s Mount

Vernon estate. More than 50,000 donors have contributed to the campaign, which aims to support students, enhance academics and break new ground through research and capital investments.

Celebrations marking the milestone took place on campus the night of Dr. Knapp’s update to the board, at the men’s basketball game against Dayton. And they continued during alumni events around the world in honor of George Washington’s 283rd birthday.

The Founding Father’s Feb. 22 birthday gave the university a fitting opportunity to celebrate the milestone and to

honor the university namesake’s vision of educating citizen leaders.

“The purpose of a campaign is not just to hit a goal, but to ratchet up the level of activity in fundraising across the institution to a new plateau from which we can ascend even further,” Dr. Knapp said. “So it’s really a question of mobilizing not just our staff and volunteers but to make the seeking of philanthropic contributions to the university an integral and pervasive part of what we do as an institution.”

Donors to the campaign have helped the university meet



student financial need and enhance coordination among academic advising, career services and study abroad programs. GW offered more than \$160 million in financial aid in 2012-13 through programs like the Power & Promise Fund. Since the summer of 2013, alumni and parent donors have provided the funds for GW to award more than \$250,000 in grants from the Knowledge in Action Career Internship Fund to 144 students for summer internships.

Gifts during the “Making History” campaign also have promoted undergraduate research, supported new aid packages for graduate students and created endowed faculty positions.

For example, Graduate School of Education and Human Development Advisory Board member and Professor Emerita Dorothy Moore and her late husband, Charles, established a graduate scholarship and professorship in international education at GSEHD. Other donations, like Luther Rice Society Advisory Council member Dean J. Coclin’s \$50,000 commitment to support the new Science and Engineering Hall, have helped GW build modern research facilities to grow the university’s influence in the arts and humanities, sciences, engineering, medicine and public health.

“We need those funds in order to continue to serve our students, serve the nation and serve the world,” Dr. Knapp said. “That’s the purpose of the campaign.”

—James Irwin

**Will you be in the Los Angeles area on April 30? GW has been taking the campaign on the road and is headed to the West Coast. For more information and to register, visit [go.gwu.edu/socalcelebration](http://go.gwu.edu/socalcelebration).**

## LAW, MEDICAL SCHOOLS TOAST CAMPAIGN

The GW schools of law and medicine held events this fall celebrating the June 2014 public launch of the university’s \$1 billion philanthropic endeavor, “Making History: The Campaign for GW.”

On October 30, the School of Medicine and Health Sciences Development and Alumni Relations office hosted the GW Medicine and Health Leadership Dinner in D.C. The event gathered for the first time leadership from the medical school, GW Hospital, the GW Medical Faculty Associates and others who play a leading role in the SMHS community.

Attendees explored how the campaign will advance the mission of SMHS by raising funds for scholarships, educational programs and technology; world-class faculty; research; buildings and infrastructure; patient care; and general support.

The GW Law School held its 2014 Dean’s Circle Dinner on November 13 at the University Club in New York City.

The dinner—chaired by Richard Langan, JD ’80, and co-chairs Corinne Ball, JD ’78, and Ike Sorkin, JD ’68—celebrated the campaign and served to welcome Dean Blake D. Morant to the New York City GW Law

community. The evening also included the presentation of the GW Law Alumni Association Distinguished Alumni Award to Jeffrey Kohn, JD ’84.

The campaign is a universitywide philanthropic effort to support GW’s vision and priorities. With a goal of raising \$1 billion by June 30, 2018, “Making History” is the most ambitious philanthropic effort in the university’s nearly 200-year history.

**To learn more about getting involved or making a gift, visit [campaign.gwu.edu](http://campaign.gwu.edu).**

## AFTER THE HOLIDAY BLITZ, A DAY FOR PHILANTHROPY

### GW raises nearly \$40,000 on national #GivingTuesday.

For the second year in a row, more than 230 donors supported the university on #GivingTuesday, a nationally recognized day of philanthropy held Dec. 2, on the heels of Black Friday and Cyber Monday. The effort raised nearly \$40,000, mostly for schools and colleges and for student organizations and activities.

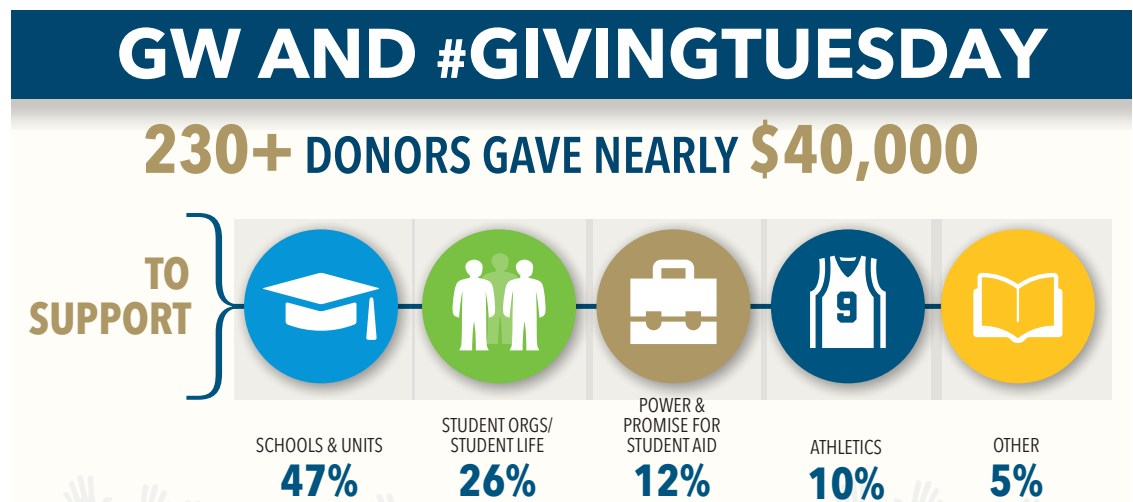
GW participation this year

highlighted the university’s service through programs like Alternative Breaks, which sends hundreds of GW students to underserved communities across the nation and around the world.

“Efforts like #GivingTuesday enable GW students to focus less on fundraising and more on creating an enriching service experience through increased pre-trip cultural and service education,” says senior Alix Cohen, a co-leader on an Alternative Breaks trip to Nicaragua this winter. “This kind of support from the GW community shows that there is an ongoing commitment to providing GW students the opportunity to serve.”

Nearly 50 alumni served as social ambassadors to help spread the word about #GivingTuesday. Ambassadors informed members of the GW community how they can support service initiatives throughout the university and discussed GW’s emphasis on civic engagement, social entrepreneurship and volunteerism.

“Being able to participate in an event like this helps spread the word about how important it is to give back to your community,” says Kerry Jordan, MS ’96, a 2014 ambassador. “It also helps raise awareness of GW and all the amazing things that are going on in terms of research and education and community engagement.”



## DEAN OF PUBLIC HEALTH SCHOOL FORMALLY INSTALLED

### Event inaugurates GW's second endowed dean

Lynn R. Goldman was formally installed in January as the Michael and Lori Milken Dean of Public Health at the Milken Institute School of Public Health.

Dr. Goldman, who became the school's dean in 2010, is a world-renowned epidemiologist, pediatrician, educator and former regulator at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. She is only the second endowed dean at the university.

Dr. Goldman thanked Michael and Lori Milken and Sumner M. Redstone for their "vision and generosity."

"I especially thank the Milkens for their understanding the critical importance of leadership as shown by their establishing the Michael and Lori Milken Dean," she said. "And together with the vision, values and commitment of the leadership at the George Washington University, this incredible institution is fully and visibly committed to public health."

The School of Public Health and Health Services was renamed the Milken Institute School of Public Health last year, in recognition of exceptional and generous contributions from the Milken Institute, the Sumner M. Redstone Charitable Foundation and the Milken Family Foundation. These gifts—

totaling \$80 million—mark the largest donation ever received by the university.

"Under [Dean Goldman's] tenure, the school has truly come into its own," GW President Steven Knapp said at the ceremony. Last year's historic gift "will ensure that the school will continue to rise in stature and fully realize its mission of advancing public health both nationally and globally," he said.

Michael Milken, who serves as chair of the Milken Institute, described the collaboration between the Institute and GW on a range of public health initiatives over the past few years, including the 2012 Celebration of Science at GW and the 2014 Summit on Public Health and Prosperity, an event co-hosted by the CDC Foundation in Atlanta.

The Milken Institute School of Public Health, he said, has the potential to shine "the brightest light" on the world's major public health issues.

"With the decision-makers within half a mile of where we sit today, we believe our partnership with the George Washington University can change these priorities, not just for the United States but for the world," he said. "It takes leadership to make these things happen, and we couldn't be happier with the leadership of the Milken Institute School of Public Health and of the George Washington University."

Victor Dzau, president of the National Academies' Institute of Medicine, called Dr. Goldman "one of the most distinguished academics in the field of health policy," and he praised her for her academic and policy work.



FROM LEFT **Michael Milken, GW Board of Trustees Chair Nelson Carbonell, BS '85, Lori Milken, Lynn Goldman, GW President Steven Knapp and Provost Steven Lerman.**



**Peter Tian, a high school senior from Hilliard, Ohio, hugs another Siemens Competition competitor after winning the \$100,000 grand prize for his research.**

## WORK ON ROBO-NAVIGATION WINS SIEMENS

### National competition held at GW awarded \$500K in scholarships

Chosen from a record 2,263 applicants, Peter Tian—a high school senior from Hilliard, Ohio—captured the \$100,000 grand prize at the 15th annual Siemens Competition for his mathematical research that could help drones and self-driving cars better navigate their environments.

"First, I was in disbelief, then I was surprised because there were so many other great individual projects," Mr. Tian said following the awards ceremony in December at GW's Jack Morton Auditorium.

For the fifth consecutive year, the university welcomed 20 of the nation's brightest high school students at the premier competition in science, technology, engineering and math—fields known collectively by the acronym STEM—hosted by the Siemens Foundation.

Mr. Tian's research project makes advancements in the theory of pattern avoidance for higher dimensional matrices, a subject that could help compute the shortest paths among objects in space. Co-founder of his school's math club, Mr. Tian said he would like to become a math

professor, and that he is inspired by the ways that math can apply to engineering and science.

Prior to the awards ceremony, Siemens and *The Atlantic* hosted an event, called "Full STEM Ahead," focused on how schools, policymakers and employers can better inspire and support students—particularly young women and minorities—who want to enter STEM fields.

A packed audience heard from science superstars like Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease, and Aprille Ericsson, a pioneering African American aeronautical engineer at NASA, among others.

Siemens awarded the \$100,000 team prize to Eli Echt-Wilson and Albert Zuo, from Albuquerque, N.M., for their computer model that simulates how a tree grows in varying conditions. The detailed model has the potential to improve long planting experiments and to maximize the efficiency of tree plantations in order to slow the effects of climate change.

In addition to the students' research presentations and awards ceremony, the five-day Siemens Competition included a campus tour, an interactive session in the School of Medicine and Health Science's Clinical Learning and Simulation Skills Center, and meetings with students and faculty from the School of Engineering and Applied Science.

This year's competitors



also met with last year's team category winners—Zainab Mahmood and Priyanka Wadgaonkar—who are now freshmen at GW.

Siemens USA President Eric Spiegel said the purpose of the Siemens Competition is to motivate and inspire the next generation of scientists and innovators. But its comparable mission, he said, is to build awareness about the emerging need in the United States for more young people to enter STEM fields.

This year the competition saw a 12 percent increase in the number of applicants. Among the applicants, 47 percent were female. —Lauren Ingeno

 For video from the “Full STEM Ahead” event, visit [go.gwu.edu/fullstemahead](http://go.gwu.edu/fullstemahead).

## TEAMSTERS PROFESSOR INSTALLED

Eric Arnesen was in graduate school at Yale University in 1981, enrolled in a course taught by labor history specialist David Montgomery, when he was first exposed to an in-depth exploration of the history of American labor.

“It was a wonderful time to fall into the field accidentally,” Dr. Arnesen said. “Labor history was in the process of becoming the ‘new’ labor history, and with the new came an expanded scope to include immigrants, workers, communities, grassroots initiatives and insurgent politics. The field was wide open. The sense of intellectual and political excitement was palpable.”

Dr. Arnesen would go on to

make the study of U.S. labor history his life's work and, in February, he was installed as the inaugural James R. Hoffa Teamsters Professor in Modern American Labor History in a ceremony at the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Labor History Research Center, housed in Gelman Library.

Dr. Arnesen's work exists at the crossroads of labor and civil rights. His published works include *Brotherhoods of Color*, which explores traditions of black trade unionism and labor activism, and *Waterfront Workers of New Orleans*, an examination of race, politics and Southern labor in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. His current project, a biography of African-American labor and civil rights leader A. Philip Randolph, further demonstrates the connection between labor rights and black

equality—a connection the Teamsters also understood.

“When battling racial exclusion in the newly developed AFL-CIO in the early 1960s, Randolph needed allies, and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters came to his defense,” Dr. Arnesen said.

“As society has changed, there are fewer and fewer people that have a shared background with unions, and so the traditions of unions are not passed on as they used to be,” Teamsters General President James P. Hoffa said at the event. “How do we educate people about the great role that unions play in society?”

The Teamsters research center, backed by a \$2 million contribution from the labor organization in 2007, opened in 2010 with the Teamsters' archival records as a foundational collection. —James Irwin



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THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY  
WASHINGTON, DC

# ALUMNI NEWS



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT Celebrations in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, at the Burj Khalifa; Shanghai; Kansas City, Mo.; Oklahoma City; and Detroit. For more, “like” GW Alumni on Facebook.

## CELEBRATIONS

# Around the Globe, Alumni Fete Namesake's Birthday

More than 1,100 alumni gathered at parties around the nation and the world in February to celebrate the 283rd birthday of their alma mater's namesake and the country's first president.

George Washington was born on Feb. 22, 1732, in Westmoreland County, Va. For the past six years, GW alumni have honored the day with George's Birthday Bash events.

“The San Antonio Alumni Network is very proud to have started the tradition of George's Birthday Bash celebration in 2010,” says Jim Eskin, BA '75. “It was the first alumni event held in our area in memory

and was a huge success with more than 40 alumni joining us. It continues as the centerpiece of our programming.”

The year after the San Antonio launch, bashes were held elsewhere around the nation and, the following year, internationally.

This year, 32 domestic and 26 international birthday parties took place, including, for the first time, celebrations in Malaysia and Turkey. Events vary by city and range from lunches to happy hours to supporting GW men's basketball on the road.

At international events, parents of GW students are also invited to join the festivities

as a way to build the Colonial community abroad. “Having events with both alumni and parents allows us to observe how much pride the alumni feel as part of the GW community,” says GW parent Martha Santolamazza.

The events are significant, says South Florida Alumni Network Committee Co-Chair Jason B. Blank, BA '02, because “not only does everyone feel a direct tie back to GW and George himself, but it is a fun celebration where alumni new and old can meet, share stories about their time on campus and Raise High together.”





**Olivier Bottrie, MBA '87, fourth from left, with Haitian President Michel Martelly, beside him at right, at the May opening of a stadium at the school built and run by his nonprofit.**

## INTERNATIONAL

## Exporting Education

**In one of Haiti's poorest communities, an alumnus' nonprofit aims to give kids a shot at U.S., French universities**

From law to business and the military, the career trajectory of Olivier Bottrie, MBA '87, has been varied, to say the least.

"I was very open and flexible," says Mr. Bottrie, the president of worldwide travel retail at Estée Lauder Companies and co-founder of the education-oriented nonprofit Hand in Hand for Haiti.

"My education at George Washington University defined me," says Mr. Bottrie, who was born in France. "The way Americans look at education and work is very different from France. I found the education at GW very pragmatic, geared towards real life. You want to excel because it's motivating."

It was this view of education that inspired Hand in Hand for Haiti, which has built an education oasis in one of the poorest communities in one of the world's poorest nations. Mr. Bottrie says his longtime "true north" has been to give children in poor countries the kind of schooling Americans are provided. In the movement to rebuild Haiti after the devastating earthquake in 2010, he had the opportunity to make that vision a reality.

The school, Lycée Jean-Baptiste Pointe du Sable, opened in Saint Marc in fall 2011 and aims to span kindergarten to high school. It admitted its first 150 students aged 3 to 5 that year, and has continued to admit 50 more each year from a pool of more than

1,000 applicants.

The objective is to make sure every student is able to pass the French baccalaureate exam. The school follows the Haitian curriculum, with a few modifications, and students will learn four languages—French, Creole, English and Spanish—by the time they graduate. The institution also hopes to develop students' athletics skills so that they may compete for athletics scholarships.

"We want these children to be competitive and be able to attend universities in France and the U.S.," says Mr. Bottrie, who oversaw the completion of the school's sports stadium this past May.

The school has also had a positive effect on the broader community. Construction of the school and stadium, for instance, provided numerous jobs for residents.

Hand in Hand for Haiti chose Saint Marc as the city for its school because it is less prone to earthquakes and tropical storms and has also committed to using clean and efficient energy to reduce the impact on the environment. Mr. Bottrie also hopes to establish wells and reforest the area around Saint Marc.

Lycée Jean-Baptiste Pointe du Sable has been garnering attention in Haiti, including from Haitian President Michel Martelly, who visited the school in May for the opening of its stadium. "I value what's been done here," he says in a video showcasing the new stadium. "I even want to model it, to replicate it around the country."

Mr. Bottrie holds up a photo of his daughter, who attends a private school in New York, pictured with one of the Haitian children who attends Lycée Jean-Baptiste Pointe du Sable. "I just want them both to be awarded the same opportunities, the same chances in life," he says.

—**Kelly Danver, BA '14**

## AWARDS

## Alumni to be Honored for Service to GW

Six alumni will be honored this spring in recognition of their volunteer efforts in support of university programs.

The Alumni Outstanding Service Award and the Jane Lingo Alumni Outstanding Service Award—presented to a faculty or staff member who is a GW graduate—will be conferred at a ceremony on April 15.

"An hour spent on behalf of the university is an hour spent away from family, friends, work, sleeping," says Jim Quinlan, BA '00, vice president of awards for the GW Alumni Association Board of Directors. "It's a tremendous amount of time, over many years, that these awardees have given for the greater good of the university."

The honorees are:

**Sylvén Beck, EdD '81:** Dr. Beck has been a professor of elementary education at GW for the past 35 years. The Sylvén Seid Beck Endowment, created in 1996, awards partial tuition coverage for master's degree students in the elementary education program.

**Ken Chaletzky, BBA '71:** The founder, president and CEO of Copy General, Mr. Chaletzky serves on the Dean's Board of Advisors at the School of Business and on the board of Hatchet Publications Inc.

**Laura Taddeucci Downs, BA '92, MA '95:** A past president of the GW Alumni Association, Ms. Downs has held several positions as a GW employee, including director of Colonial Inauguration. She currently serves on GW's National Council on Education and Human Development.

**Allan From, BBA '72:** A member of the GW Board of Trustees, the GW Alumni Association Board of Directors and the Athletic Advisory Council, Mr. From has participated in more than 50 college fairs and hosted more than 15 events in his service to the Alumni, Admissions and Parent Program.

**Howard Tischler, MS '80:** The founder of Intelius Corp., Mr. Tischler has served since 2001 on the School of Engineering and Applied Science's National Advisory Council.

**Frank Wong, BA '79:** The Scholastic Asia president sits on the Elliott School of International Affairs' International Council and has been instrumental in establishing GW's presence in Asia, serving as chair of the Hong Kong Alumni Club and helping to organize the GW Global Forum there.

## PROFILE

## Support for the Children of Fallen Soldiers

Travis Wright, MS '10, and a former co-worker, Joe Lewis, were paying their respects at Arlington National Cemetery when they were “struck by the number of young children visiting the cemetery, the pictures drawn in crayon placed next to graves and the stuffed animals propped neatly up against the markers,” says Mr. Wright.

Both men had lost friends over the course of their military careers, and many of them had children. The two found themselves asking: What happens to the little ones a few years after the loss of their loved one?

It was at that moment that the seed was sown for Angels of America's Fallen. The charity organization was formed in 2012 to support those children with opportunities for personal development and mentorship.

For one child, it could be karate lessons; for another, gymnastics camp. And as their interests change, so too does the support. The organization may fund a variety of activities over the course of a childhood.

Mr. Lewis, then near retirement in his military career, decided to move forward with the project, asking Mr. Wright to serve as chairman of the board.

Recently retired from the military and now working for a defense contractor in the D.C. area, Mr. Wright's role at AoAF is to keep a pulse on the organization's planned events, to help with the donor strategy and to get regular updates on the kids. “The most rewarding part is hearing the stories about our kids and the impact our program has on them,” he says. “They have lost a most important mentor, and while we cannot replace the parent, we can provide a healthy activity that will allow the kids to grow.”

Mr. Wright tells the story of one 4-year-old girl who witnessed her father take his own life. As a result, she stopped walking and talking. With funds from AoAF, the child's mother was able to enroll her in dance lessons. “The girl's transformation has been

nothing short of amazing,” Mr. Wright says, “and she recently sent us a video of her dance recital to say thank you.”

He appreciates the value of helping military families. Toward the end of his studies at GW, the university adopted the Yellow Ribbon program, which covered costs that the GI Bill did not. “I'm thankful for the focus that GW places on our veterans,” he says. “Many of the skills and tools I learned at GW translate directly to what we were trying to accomplish at AoAF. The best way I can pay it forward is through Angels of America's Fallen.”

In September, the AoAF won a \$37,500 grant through the Newman's Own Awards, sponsored by Newman's Own, *Military Times* and the Fisher House Foundation. Because the organization makes a long-term commitment to each family, the need for funding grows each year, Mr. Wright says. Thanks to the grant, AoAF was able to move a large group off the waiting list.

“We are serving 200 kids in 29 states, which is awesome,” he says, “but we have over 150 still on our list.”

—Mary Follin



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**The GW alumni voice is clearest and the engagement is most effective when we have diverse voices at the table.**

**FROM THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

## Fellow Colonials:

When it comes to diversity, the GW that my son, David, experienced between 2002 and 2010 as an undergraduate and law student was much more advanced than the GW of the early 1970s, when I was a student. And the GW of 2015 has progressed even further.

When I was a student, we were passionate about social justice and reveled in the turbulence created by the intense political and cultural changes underway. Yet we did not have the clear focus on diversity and inclusion that many students and alumni share today. For example, when the courageous leaders of the Gay People's Alliance repeatedly sought inclusion, GW leaders were slow to recognize that need; even worse, few students really "got it."

Today, GW's commitment to diversity is much more robust, but there is still work to be done. Your GW Alumni Association is striving to further strengthen the diversity and inclusiveness of both the GWAA and GW.

I suggest that it is no coincidence that the very things that make a GW education important are what make diversity important: Providing opportunities to all, not just some. Exposing the GW community to different cultures and ideas and varied ways of inquiring, assessing and perceiving. Preparing students and alumni for today's diverse workplace, marketplace, business and government communities. Reinforcing our values.

Two of the central goals of the GWAA are gathering a voice for alumni and fostering alumni engagement with the GW community. And the GW alumni voice is clearest and the engagement is most effective when we have diverse voices at the table exchanging divergent perspectives. Our Governance and Nominations Committee works to enhance the diversity of the GWAA Board of Directors. The committee reaches out to representatives of affinity and identity groups, schools and other GW bodies, encouraging applications from alumni from an array of backgrounds. The GWAA has engaged in dialogue with numerous affinity and identity groups to explore common goals.

Gender and multicultural diversity remain important focal points for us. We also recognize that alumni are of all ages, live in regions across the country and globe, participated in many GW schools, programs and activities, and serve or served in the military.

So how can you make a difference with diversity?

- *Get involved in the GWAA*
- *Join an affinity group that reflects your interests, affinity or identity*
- *Attend events hosted by groups that are not familiar to you, to learn from them*
- *Learn about GW's commitment to diversity and inclusion*
- *Contribute to your favorite interest, affinity or identity groups and be part of the university's campaign, "Making History"*
- *Attend alumni events in your U.S. region or across the globe*

*(Visit [alumni.gwu.edu](http://alumni.gwu.edu) for more information about all of these opportunities.)*

In the transformative early '70s, we had some of the right ideas, but few of us understood the centrality of diversity. My son David's classmates made meaningful advances. Today, GW alumni can help continue the forward progress with diversity and inclusion. Please join us!

Best regards and Raise High!

Steve Frenkil, BA '74 and Past Parent ('06, '10)  
President, GWAA, 2013-15  
[alumni.gwu.edu/gwaa](http://alumni.gwu.edu/gwaa)



## PROFILE

## Finding a Picture of the Economy in a Wave of Data

When Chris Varvares isn't juggling phone calls, texts and emails while hurrying through airports on the way to client meetings and speaking engagements, he's scouring sources to keep current on global inflation, interest rates, securities and monetary markets, and geopolitical and environmental events.

"Economists are supposed to be good at math, so I hope you'll excuse me when I say I have 110 percent days," jokes Mr. Varvares, BA '77, senior managing director and co-founder of Macroeconomic Advisers in St. Louis. "Digesting and analyzing information, helping manage the firm and being a husband to my wife, Jill, and father to our 12-year-old son and 3-year-old twin boys keeps me more than busy."

The Amazing Kreskin has nothing on Mr. Varvares—especially when it comes to the U.S. economy. Mr. Varvares has spent the past 30-plus years predicting the future and building a reputation as one of the nation's top economists.

"If you know economists, many of us are a bit constrained in terms of our ability to communicate effectively," says Ellen Hughes-Cromwick, chief economist at Ford Motor Co. and a Macroeconomic Advisers client. "Chris is one of the top economists working in the private sector, someone with great insight and whose communication skills and ability to relate to non-economists set him apart."

While the firm has an office inside the Beltway, Mr. Varvares believes that its St. Louis base of operations is often perceived as an advantage.

"Wall Street is the epicenter, with D.C. not far behind, but our clients say that they like the idea that we are outsiders, because folks from those places are always talking to each other, creating a bit of a herd mentality," he says.

Almost every major American financial institution, government agency and corporation uses economic forecasts to strategize, and Mr. Varvares is like a master juggler of economic variables, tossing them into the air and seeing how they all factor into the short term and the next 10 years. The firm counts among its clients the President's Council of Economic Advisers, the Congressional Budget Office and

the departments of Treasury, Labor and Commerce. Macroeconomic Advisers has nondisclosure agreements with almost all its nongovernmental clients, but Mr. Varvares says the list includes 12 of the 20 largest U.S. financial institutions, as well as major trade associations and corporations.

The firm, which Mr. Varvares co-founded in 1982 in his hometown with Joel Prakken and Laurence Meyer (his former professor in graduate school at Washington University), has 14 economists following the U.S. economy.

"Outside of the Federal Reserve, we are the largest private sector team that focuses on macroeconomics," he says.

As an undergraduate, Mr. Varvares' sights had been set on political science and law school when he was inspired by a group of economics professors, including two, Anthony Yezer and Joseph Cordes, who still teach at GW. "I realized early on that behind political motivations, there is almost always an economic story," he says.

Beyond economics, Mr. Varvares co-founded the International Medical Assistance Foundation in 2005, with the encouragement of his younger brother, Mark, a head and neck cancer specialist and professor at the St. Louis University Cancer Center. The all-volunteer, not-for-profit group organizes and funds medical trips to developing countries and, to date, has sent 20 teams of doctors, nurses and others to Honduras. "It does a huge amount of good, and I'm very proud of it," he says. —**Bill Glovin, BA'77**



**"I REALIZED EARLY ON THAT BEHIND POLITICAL MOTIVATIONS, THERE IS ALMOST ALWAYS AN ECONOMIC STORY."**

**Chris Varvares, BA '77**

## FIRST PERSON

## A Beloved, Bedraggeled Sports Icon

**Before Science and Engineering Hall and before the parking garage, that block was home to an all-male jock dorm. Marc Leepson, BA '67, MA '71, lived to tell about it.**

Not long after the start of the fall semester of 1965, my junior year at GW, I was told I was no longer welcome at John C. Calhoun Residence Hall. My offense: playing my (acoustic) guitar in the hallway. My punishment: banishment to Welling Hall, the jock dorm two blocks away on 22nd Street between H and I streets.

I had been sentenced to live in a 100-man dormitory filled with football, baseball and basketball players—a dorm with a reputation, and not a sterling one. The testosterone-fueled young athletes made "The Hall," as the guys called it, the closest thing on the concrete campus to the raucous fictional *Animal House* of John Belushi fame.

Not long after receiving my Calhoun Hall eviction notice, I packed my meager belongings and a buddy and I carted them down I Street. As we dragged my bags up the winding stairway to the second floor of Welling, we heard a commotion. I looked up and saw two behemoth football players wrestling in the hallway—in their underwear.

"Welcome to Welling," I thought.

### Life as a Civilian

I soon found out that I was joining the ranks of a handful of "civilians," as non-athletes were called in Welling, an old four-story apartment house that became one of GW's first male dorms in the fall of 1947. It was named after James Clarke Welling, the sixth president of GW, who served from 1871 until his death in 1894.

It was during his tenure, around 1885, that a modest apartment house went up at 814 22nd Street. After GW acquired the place some seven decades later, the



Though the top two photos—of the Welling dining hall and front porch—are undated, the one at right has hand-written on its back: “fondly referred to by students as ‘The Zoo.’” At bottom is Welling Hall, as seen in 1963.



university named it Welling Hall and divided the building's small apartments into dorm rooms grouped into suites. A typical suite was made up of three small rooms, about 100 square feet apiece, that shared a tiny bathroom and shower.

It wasn't exactly the Ritz. It was “a former ‘flop house’ that still looked the part” in the late 1960s, Welling's last resident director, Neil Proto, MA '69, JD '72, wrote in his memoir, *To A High Court*. “Four floors; a rough, cracked stucco exterior; holes in the walls; and infested with cockroaches of legendary size.” The athletes “took their sports inside,” Mr. Proto said, “down the stairwells, and out the windows.”

To paraphrase a former San Francisco 49er referring to the recently departed Candlestick Park: Welling was a dump—but it was our dump.

Terry Denbow, BA '68, a four-year resident of the hall who played on the tennis team, remembers playing Cornell in 1966 “and because there were spare rooms, their team stayed in Welling. I was talking in the lobby to a guy on the team I knew from back home in Pennsylvania. He said, ‘You mean people actually live here?’”

Welling “was like a clubhouse,” Mr. Denbow says. “Some wild and crazy things happened there, probably not much more than what took place in any male-only dorm of the day, but since nearly all the guys were athletes everything was ratcheted up a notch or two—well, maybe three.”

The place was not for everyone. “One year, there was a civilian who applied late when all the other dorms were full. He wound up in Welling,” Mr. Denbow says. “I remember him sitting on the side of his bed, suitcase unopened, looking like a refugee lost in a foreign land. He moved out within a week.”

I didn't move out. In fact, I soon loved living in the hall. I joined in the camaraderie and the perverse pride we all had for living in the smallest, shabbiest, least-fashionable, worst-equipped dorm on campus. I happily re-upped for my senior year.

Yes, there was wrestling in the hallways, and lots of other wild activity, going on day



and night. But there also was that we're-all-in-this-together feeling. The guys ate all their meals—save late-night pizza and burger runs—together in the only dorm on campus at the time with its own dining hall, bonding over enormous portions of high-protein meals. Most of the Welling residents were teammates, on the field and off.

Even after GW dropped football over Christmas break of 1966 and most of the scholarship players moved on to other schools, Welling retained its *Animal House* ambiance. When Tim Ashwell arrived there in the fall of 1967, he says, “it had the tradition and most people who lived there tended to be sports fans. It had a sports-bar mentality.” He lived in Welling for the next three years.

### The End of an Era

The dorm began to change in 1968, when the campus became the physical center of the anti-Vietnam War movement in Washington, with its proximity to the White House, State Department and the National Mall. “There was a transformation in character,” wrote Mr. Proto, who became resident manager in the fall of 1969. “We had an influx of students who were activist, radical thinkers affected by the civil rights movement and Robert Kennedy's and Eugene McCarthy's 1968 presidential campaigns.”


In 1969 and 1970, GW “was alive with national and campus political activists, and many of them stayed at Welling,”

Mr. Proto wrote. “In fact, the dorm increased threefold in size, up to three hundred students, every time there was a big demonstration. The Welling cafeteria—which had been disassembled the year before—became a meeting and planning room. When the riot police showed, we had to deal with tear gas and pepper gas. Getting a few Welling students out of jail became part of my work as resident director.”

Then in April 1970, the university announced that due to a “near emergency campus parking situation” Welling Hall would be torn down to make way for a multilevel, 1,100-car parking garage. The news didn't go over well with Welling residents, many of whom were looking forward to another year in the crumbling dorm.

“Our roaches will have no place to go,” resident Paul Brooks, BA '73, tongue planted firmly in cheek, told *The Hatchet*.

The dorm bit the dust that summer. Two years later the parking garage opened for business and lasted until 2011, when the university broke ground on the new Science and Engineering Hall.

Before the demolition of Welling, a few residents saved the large, metallic “Welling Hall, Residence for Men” sign that adorned the front of the dorm. They gave it to Mr. Proto for safe keeping. Today that sign resides in the University Archives, along with other memorabilia of a shifting, and sometimes barely lamented, university landscape. 

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# CLASS NOTES

**60s**  
& EARLIER

**Robert M. Senior, MD '61**, was presented with the Distinguished Investigator Award by the Washington University School of Medicine, where he has been a faculty member for more than 40 years, specializing in pulmonary medicine, cell biology and physiology.

**Donald Blount, BS '63**, published *Performance by Design: Hydrodynamics for High-Speed Vessels* (Donald L Blount, October 2014).

**Louis Pirkey, JD '64**, has been selected as a recipient of the Austin Bar Foundation's Distinguished Lawyer Award for 2015. Mr. Pirkey is a founding member of trademark specialty firm Pirkey Barber PLLC and is an adjunct professor of trademark law at the University of Texas. Previously, he served as president of the American Intellectual Property Law Association and was a member of the U.S. Trademark Review Commission.

**Carole Rayburn, MA '65**, was elected a fellow in the American Psychological Association division on evaluation, measurement and statistics. Along with proposing her own theory of the creative personality, Dr. Rayburn served as president of the APA division on the psychology of religion and spirituality and of the Maryland Psychological Association. Dr. Rayburn is a clinical psychologist, consultant and researcher in Silver Spring, Md.

**James Robertson, LLB '65**, was presented with The Honorable Charles R. Richey Award. Prior to his retirement in 2010, Mr. Robertson was partner at the firm now known as Wilmer Hale and served as president of the D.C. Bar. He is a former judge on the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.

**Michael John Locke, BS '67**, authored his first book, *Silver Lake Chronicles: Exploring an Urban Oasis in Los Angeles* (The History Press, November 2014). The book explores Silver Lake, "a perennially

avant-garde and enchanting enclave situated between Los Feliz and Echo Park a few miles from downtown Los Angeles" that in 2012 was ranked the nation's "Best Hipster Neighborhood" by *Forbes* magazine.

**70s**

**Greg McKenzie, JD '72**, has joined Crowe & Dunlevy as of counsel in the energy and natural resources and environmental practice groups in the firm's Oklahoma City office. Previously, Mr. McKenzie worked at his own firm practicing oil and gas litigation and arbitration.

**John Ferguson, MBA '73**, was recognized in the 2015 editions of *Who's Who in America* and *Who's Who in the World*. Mr. Ferguson is president and CEO of Blue Horizon International LLC.

**Bruce Merwin, BA '73**, was selected in 2014 for inclusion in *Texas Super Lawyers*.

**Paula Howie, MA '75**, was named an honorary lifetime member of the American Art Therapy Association. Ms. Howie served as director of the activities therapy services program at Walter Reed Army Medical for 25 years before retiring, and has taught art therapy and counseling to graduate students at GW since 1985.

**Howard Williams, LLM '75**, a partner in Brooks, Pierce, McLendon, Humphrey & Leonard LLP, was recognized in the 2014 edition of *Super Lawyers Business Edition*.

**Nancy Nga Barlow, BS '76**, established a general and cosmetic dental practice in Rockville, Md. Prior to becoming a dentist, Ms. Barlow was a commissioned officer in the U.S. Public Health Service.

**Charles K. Steiner, MFA '76**, received an honorable mention for his painting Fort Smith Study #7 in the 2014 Delta Exhibition of Painting and Sculpture at the Arkansas Art Center in Little Rock, Ark. His work was also featured in two other exhibitions at the Regional Art Museum in Fort Smith, Ark., and at The Blue Lion, an event center

at the University of Arkansas.

**Bradley Stevens, BA '76, MFA '79**, exhibited his artwork at Warm Springs Gallery in Charlottesville, Va. His collection is titled "Stolen Moments: Everyday Life in Paris and Provence."

**Joey Manlapaz, BA '77, MFA '80**, had paintings from her "Figurative Sculpture" series featured at the ManMADE exhibition at Gallery Plan B in Washington, D.C. Ms. Manlapaz's artwork can be viewed at [joeymanlapaz.com](http://joeymanlapaz.com).

**Stephanie Shipp, MA '77, PhD '00**, has been named a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Ms. Shipp is deputy director of the social and decision analytics laboratory of the Virginia Bioinformatics Institute at the Virginia Tech Research Center in Arlington, Va.

**Jo Ann Webb, MA '78**, was inducted into the American Academy of Nursing as a 2014 fellow. Ms. Webb currently serves as senior director of federal relations and policy for the American Organization of Nurse Executives.

**Stephen A. Cohen, BA '79**, is director of partnership operations and tax matters partner at Ernst & Young. He is responsible for the firm's and its partners' tax, retirement and other financial matters. Mr. Cohen has been with Ernst & Young for more than 25 years.

**80s**

**Tony Ramos, JD '80**, has been accepted to the Master of Laws graduate studies program in business and finance at GW Law. Mr. Ramos intends to write his thesis on a new federal legislative act for national broadband infrastructure expansion. He is the founding president of Rural Broadband Company Inc.

**Meredith LaPier, BA '81, MBA '85**, was named as one of *Washington Business Journal's* "Women Who Mean Business" 2014 honorees. During her 29-year real estate career, she has negotiated transactions totaling more than 35 million square feet. Ms. LaPier co-leads an eight-person team that has generated strong revenue growth for each of the past five years.

**Todd Nichols, JD '81**, is president of the Washington State Association for Justice, formerly the Washington State Trial Lawyers

Association. Mr. Nichols has been practicing law for 25 years and has been a member of Cogdill Nichols Rein Wartelle Andrews since 1992.

**Laurence E. Bensignor, JD '81**, was named by *Washington Business Journal* as one of 20 "Legal Champions" of the Greater Washington area. Mr. Bensignor is executive vice president and general counsel of EagleBank in Bethesda, Md.

**Steven Gartner, BBA '81**, has joined CBRE Group as an executive vice president for retail services. Mr. Gartner previously spent 10 years as president of Metro Commercial Real Estate in Philadelphia. He also serves as co-chair of the real estate division of State of Israel Bonds and is a founding member of the Jewish Federation Real Estate Group.

**Stephen Sauls, MPA '81**, has retired as vice president for government relations at Florida International University. He writes: "I've always appreciated and given credit to my transformational experience at George Washington University."

**Seth R. Price, JD '82**, a shareholder in Chamberlain, Hrdlicka, White, Williams & Aughtry, was named in the 2014 edition of *Super Lawyers Business Edition* for construction litigation.

**Susan Ellis Wild, JD '82**, has been recertified as a civil trial advocate by the National Board of Trial Advocacy. Ms. Wild has litigated hundreds of cases and is currently licensed to practice in Pennsylvania, D.C. and Maryland. Ms. Wild is also a member and past president of the Bar Association of Lehigh County, Pa.

**Luis J. Fujimoto, BS '85**, was appointed commissioner of the joint commission on national dental examinations of the American Dental Association in Chicago. He works in the private practice of comprehensive dentistry with advanced services in implants and oral rehabilitation in New York City. Dr. Fujimoto also serves as a clinical professor in the periodontology department of Nippon Dental University in Tokyo.

**Marc D. Edelman, MS '86**, has been appointed senior vice president for operations of Providence Hospital in Washington, D.C.

**Wendy R. LeBolt, MA '86**, published *Fit2Finish: Keeping Your Soccer Players in*

## EVENTS

## Running in Remembrance

*Peter Hoffman, BS '07, had only recently graduated when he was diagnosed with an aggressive tongue cancer. Even as he fought the disease, Mr. Hoffman began planning an oral cancer awareness and fundraising run, but was unable to finish before he died in early 2009, at age 24. His family—including his sisters, Kaitlin Caruso, MEd '14, (below at right with Mr. Hoffman) and Colleen Hoffman, a graduate student in the School of Business (at left)—carried the torch and organized the Oral Cancer Foundation 5K Walk/Run in Memory of Peter McGee Hoffman, which will be held April 18 in Chevy Chase, Md. Proceeds will go toward oral cancer research and prevention.*

For more information, visit [peterswalkrun.com](http://peterswalkrun.com).



▶ *the Game* (Morgan James Publishing, 2015). The book “is written for youth soccer coaches who are serious about training children to be successful athletes while keeping their bodies healthy.”

**David Poyer, MA '86**, published *The Cruiser* (St. Martin's Press, 2014). First of a planned trilogy, the novel is about the beginnings of the at-sea theater ballistic missile defense program and is the 14th novel to feature fictional GW alumnus Dan Lenson. Mr. Poyer teaches in the creative writing graduate program at Wilkes University in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., and serves as a board member of the Library of Virginia.

**Steven Fujita, BA '88**, published *Toe Up to 10K: A Journey of Recovery from Spinal Cord Injury* (CreateSpace, 2014). The book chronicles Mr. Fujita's journey after being diagnosed with meningitis and becoming paralyzed from the chest down.

**Melissa McLoud, PhD '88**, teaches in the masters of cultural sustainability program at Goucher College and is the social media marketer for her husband William Peak's novel *The Oblate's Confession* (Secant Publishing, 2014). More information can be found at [williampeak.com](http://williampeak.com).

**Cheryl Nora Moss, BA '89**, was re-elected to a fourth consecutive six-year term in the 8th Judicial District Court of Clark County, Nev. Ms. Moss has served as a family court judge in Las Vegas since 2001. She is the first Asian-American elected to statewide court in Nevada.

## 90s

**Harlan M. Sands, MBA '90**, has been named senior vice president for finance and administration and chief financing/operating officer at the University of Louisville. Previously, Mr. Sands served for seven years as vice provost for administration and quality improvement at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

**Penny Prater, LLM '91**, has been elected a member of the Fellows of the Texas Bar Foundation.

**Tim Schnacke, LLM '91**, received the National Association of Pretrial Services Agencies' Pioneer Award for his work in bail reform. He also will serve as co-chair of the American Bar Association's Pretrial Justice Committee for 2014-15. Mr.

Schnacke is executive director of the Center for Legal and Evidence-Based Practices in Golden, Colo.

**Martin Schulz, JD '91, MBA '92**, is managing director of international equity at PNC Capital Advisors, where he helps manage \$38 billion in assets.

**Kelley R. Kenney, EdD '92**, has received the Pennsylvania College Personnel Association's 2014 Ronald Lunardini Mentoring Award. Dr. Kenney, professor of counseling and student affairs at Kutztown University, currently serves on the executive board of the PCPA and in the professional standards division of the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators. Dr. Kenney has served on the KU faculty for nearly 30 years and was nominated for this award for her mentoring of graduate students and new professionals in the field of student affairs.

**Monica Saigal Bhide, MS '93**, published a collection of short stories called *The Devil In Us* (CreateSpace, 2014). Ms. Bhide is known for her cookbooks, including *Modern Spice* (Simon & Schuster, 2009), and her essays about food and life. She also serves as a speaker and teacher for organizations like Georgetown University, the Association of Food Journalists, London Food Bloggers Connect and the Smithsonian. Visit her website at [monicabhideo.com](http://monicabhideo.com).

**Alexander Jeong, JD '93**, was appointed as a deputy administrative judge of the New York City Criminal Court. Mr. Jeong joined the unified court system in 2005. Previously, he served in the Kings County District Attorney's Office for more than a decade.

**Jonathan Vivar, BBA '93**, was named senior vice president of sales for Rolta's Oracle Consulting Services.

**Richard Almon, JD '94**, joined Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton as an associate on the software and electrical engineering team in the firm's intellectual property department. Prior to joining the firm, Mr. Almon was an associate at McDermott, Will & Emery, PLLC. He is a registered patent attorney.

**Jessica Southwick, BA '95**, published *The Mitten: A Classic Pop-Up Folktale* (Jumping Jack Press, 2014). Ms. Southwick's book has been named among *Parents* magazine's “10 Best Children's Books of 2014.” The book comes to life with pull tabs, wheels and other



interactive elements.

**Barbara Joers, MS '96**, was elected to the Children's Miracle Network Hospitals Board of Trustees. Ms. Joers currently serves as president and CEO of Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare.

**Elizabeth Sackett, JD '96**, was named of counsel to Hermes Netburn, a Boston boutique law firm.

**Paula Anderson, MA '99**, has been selected to receive a 2014 Top 100 Minority Business Enterprises Award. Ms. Anderson is president and CEO of PACE Consulting in College Park, Md.

**Michael D. Kelly, MA '99, EdD '02**, was appointed clinical associate professor in the leadership, counseling and research department at Virginia Tech's College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences. Mr. Kelly will teach courses on school law, school finance and curriculum supervision

00s

**Walter Marlowe, MBA '00**, has accepted the executive director position at the American

Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists.

**James McGrath Morris, MA '00**, published *Eye on the Struggle: Ethel Payne, The First Lady of the Black Press* (Amistad, 2015). Mr. Morris, an acclaimed biographer, "brings into focus the riveting life of one of the most significant yet least known figures of the civil rights era—pioneering journalist Ethel Payne, the 'First Lady of the Black Press.'"

**Yvonne Goldsberry, PhD '01**, has joined Endowment for Health as vice president for programs. Dr. Goldsberry most recently served as vice president of population health and clinical integration for Cheshire Medical Center/Dartmouth Hitchcock Keene.

**Sean J. Grygiel, JD '01**, has joined Perkins Coie's New York office as a partner in the firm's intellectual property practice. Previously, Mr. Grygiel was a principal with Fish & Richardson.

**Emilia Kallock, BA '01**, exhibited her paintings from October to March at the YMCA and Bank of America in Stanwood, Wash. Ms. Kallock's artwork can be seen at [emiliakallock.com](http://emiliakallock.com).

**Eugene Hahn, PhD '01**, published *Bayesian Methods for Management and Business: Pragmatic Solutions for Real*

*Problems* (Wiley, 2014). The book "demonstrates how Bayesian statistics can help to provide insights into important issues facing business and management."

**Josh Fine, LLM '02**, was elected in 2014 to a three-year term on the Borough Council of Highland Park, N.J.

**Courtney Dyer, JD '03**, has been promoted to partner in the Washington, D.C., office of O'Melveny & Myers. She is a member of the antitrust and competition practice.

**John Edwards, MA '03**, was promoted to colonel in the U.S. Air Force and selected as a group commander. Assigned to the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the Pentagon, he leads a combined military and civilian team working on the Defense Innovation Initiative.

**Victor D. Shandor, CERT '03**, was appointed superintendent of the York County (Va.) School Division. Prior to his appointment, Dr. Shandor served as area superintendent for schools in Fulton County, Ga.

**Luke Philip Plotica, MA '04**, has been appointed an assistant professor in the political science department of the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences at Virginia Tech. He will teach judicial process and modern political theory and will serve on the faculty boards of *Philologia*, Virginia Tech's undergraduate research journal for the liberal arts and human sciences, as well as the college's Undergraduate Research Institute.

**Rachel K. Hunnicutt, JD '05**, has been promoted to of counsel at Wiley Rein. Previously, she worked as an associate in the firm's intellectual property and food and drug law practices.

**Michael J. Gridley, JD '06**, has been promoted to of counsel at Wiley Rein. Previously, Mr. Gridley served as an associate in the insurance and litigation practices in the firm.

**Erin E. Lamb, BA '06**, an associate in the Philadelphia law office of Rawle & Henderson LLP, is chair-elect of the executive committee of the Philadelphia Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division.

**Bonnie Panlasigui, MS '06**, is the new chief administrative officer for Alameda Hospital and oversees the Certified Primary Stroke Center, Creedon Center for Advanced

Wound Care, Bay Area Bone and Joint Center, Waters Edge Skilled Nursing Facility and South Shore Convalescent Hospital.

**Jered E. Matthyse, JD '07**, has been promoted to member at Pirkey Barber PLLC, a trademark law firm in Austin, Texas. Prior to joining the firm, Mr. Matthyse served as a law clerk for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit.

**Marc Heisterkamp, MBA '07**, was promoted to vice president of strategic relationships at the U.S. Green Building Council. His duties encompass driving organizational strategy and leading the growth of LEED and other USGBC programs in North America. He also serves on the boards of the Oregon Environmental Council and Green Empowerment.

**Anne Champion, JD '08**, was elected to partner in Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP. She practices complex commercial litigation, with a focus on transnational and intellectual property litigation.

**Matthew J. Dowd, JD '08**, was elected a partner at Wiley Rein LLP. Mr. Dowd works in the intellectual property, appellate and litigation practices.

**Kenny Gold, BA '08**, and **Casey (Herzog) Gold, BA '10**, were married on Nov. 1, 2014. Forty-nine GW alumni were in attendance.

**Matt Honan, BS '08**, and **Sarah Whittemore, BA '08**, were married on Oct. 18, 2014 in New London, Conn. The couple lives in New York City, where Mr. Honan serves as a senior financial analyst for Quest Diagnostics and Ms. Whittemore works as an educational consultant for the New Teacher Project.

**Bryan R. King, JD '08**, is leading the GovCon Blog, a government contracts blog launched by Bass, Berry & Sims PLC in October 2014. Mr. King works in the firm's Washington, D.C., office. His practice focuses on federal contracting matters. The blog can be viewed at [bassberrygovcon.com](http://bassberrygovcon.com).

**Michael B. Nemerof, BA '08**, became an associate attorney at Yates and Schiller PA in Boca Raton, Fla. Mr. Nemerof serves as co-chair of the South Florida GW Young Alumni Committee.

**Andrew Schultz, JD '08**, has been named to the 2014 Massachusetts Rising Stars list. Mr. Schultz is an associate in the intellectual property transactions

and rights management practice group at the Boston office of Pepper Hamilton.

**Yalcin Tarkocin, MS '08**, and **Carrie Gantt, JD '12**, were married in Hendersonville, N.C., on Oct. 18, 2014. The couple lives in New York City.

**Emily Meredith, BA '09**, has been named vice president of animal care at the National Milk Producers Federation in Arlington, Va. Ms. Meredith previously served as vice president of communications and membership for the Animal Agricultural Alliance.

**John-Carlos Estrada, BA '09**, has been named the evening news anchor and managing editor of KTRE-TV in Lufkin, Texas. Mr. Estrada will anchor the East Texas news at 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. Central time.

10s

**Laura Farach, JD '10**, joined the insurance and reinsurance group of Robinson & Cole LLP as an associate. Ms. Farach's practice focuses on liability and property insurance coverage matters.

**Kip Patrick, CERT '10**, was named among *National Geographic Traveler* magazine's 2014 Travelers of the Year. Mr. Patrick and his wife, Liz Zipse, spent 16 months traveling 30,000 miles in 24 countries while volunteering at least one day each week.

**William A. Taylor, PhD '10**, published *Every Citizen a Soldier: The Campaign for Universal Military Training after World War II* (Texas A&M University Press, 2014). Mr. Taylor is an assistant professor of security studies at Angelo State University in San Angelo, Texas.

**Jenny Tchinnosian, BA '10**, founded the global communications company SoulFire ([soulfiremedia.com](http://soulfiremedia.com)), which creates websites, videos and social media strategies for companies and nongovernmental organizations. Ms. Tchinnosian lives in Argentina.

**Kevin M. Ringel, JD '11**, joined Swanson, Martin & Bell as an associate in its Chicago office. Prior to joining Swanson, Mr. Ringel worked as an associate at Berman, Sobin, Gross, Feldman & Darby LLP in Gaithersburg, Md. He focuses his practice on medical negligence, health care and product liability.

**Liana Yung, JD '11**, joined Nicolaidis LLP as an associate. ▶

**Marianne Olaniran, MS '11**, co-authored the article

“Strengthening the Partnership Between Routine Immunization and the Global Polio Eradication Initiative to Achieve Eradication and Assure Sustainability,” published in the *Journal of Infectious Diseases*.

**Mary P. Moore, JD '12**, has joined the Rochester, N.Y., office of Bond, Schoeneck & King. She is a litigation attorney who represents clients in federal and state trial courts and appellate courts. Previously, Ms. Moore practiced litigation with Squire Patton Boggs in Washington, D.C.

**Angela M. Kilbert, JD '13**, joined Babst Calland as an associate in its environmental services group. Prior to joining the firm, Ms. Kilbert was a law clerk for D. Quarles Jr., U.S. District Court judge for the District of Maryland.

**Jenna Kristal, JD '14**, has joined Locks Law Firm as an associate in its Philadelphia office. Ms. Kristal's position will focus on toxic torts and other personal injury matters. Prior to joining Locks, she interned for U.S. Sen. Jon Tester (D-Mont.) in Montana, where she worked on immigration policy.

**Jonathan Philpot, JD '14**, has joined Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP as an associate in its West Virginia office. He will be practicing in the areas of appellate law, class actions, mass torts, consumer fraud litigation, commercial litigation and environmental law.

**Grant B. Schweikert, JD '14**, joined Dinsmore & Shohl as an associate in its corporate department. Prior to joining the firm, Mr. Schweikert served on active duty for 11 years as a U.S. Navy search-and-rescue helicopter pilot.



#### AND WHAT ABOUT YOU?

Submit your own class note, book or Artists' Quarter update:

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## IN MEMORIAM

**Eileen Kendrick Thompson, AA '41, BA '43**

Sept. 17, 2014  
Arlington, Va.

**Joseph M. Gallagher, AA '42, BS '43**

Sept. 15, 2014  
Silver Spring, Md.

**Joan Carmichael Foote, AA '54**

Dec. 1, 2013  
Ashburn, Va.

**Edgar B. May, LLB '59**

Jan. 19, 2015  
Washington, D.C.

**Thomas W. Knott, MA '61**

June 16, 2014  
Ashburn, Va.

**Ray Van Hook, LLM '67**

Jan. 21, 2014  
Savannah, Ga.

**Nancy Ely Starnes, MA '70**

Sept. 22, 2014  
Cockeysville, Md.

**Lisa Marie Taylor, BA '78**

Sept. 28, 2014  
Dallas

**Frank J. Glinsky, JD '84**

Nov. 16, 2014  
New York City

**Thomas Brown Johnston, JD '86**

Nov. 30, 2014  
Washington, D.C.

**Stephen Charles Maloney, MS '12**

Nov. 6, 2014  
Virginia Beach, Va.

**Thomas A. Briody**

Oct. 24, 2014  
Wilton, Conn.

#### Faculty and Staff

**Nancy C. Bannister**

Budgetary control analyst  
Dec. 27, 2014  
Burke, Va.

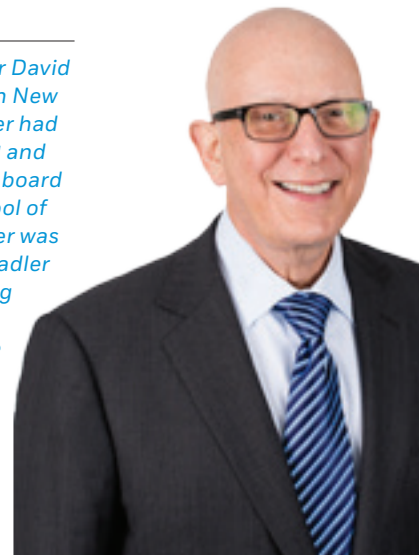
**Ali B. Cambel**

Professor Emeritus of Engineering and Applied Science  
Oct. 7, 2014  
McLean, Va.

## REMEMBERING

### David Nadler

GW Board of Trustees member David A. Nadler, BA '70, died Feb. 5 in New York City. He was 66. Dr. Nadler had served on the board since 2011 and was chairman emeritus of the board of advisors for the Elliott School of International Affairs. Dr. Nadler was principal and co-founder of Nadler Advisory Services, a consulting firm that advises boards of directors, CEOs and executive teams on leadership, governance and team effectiveness. In 2012, his gift of \$1 million created the Nadler Endowment Fund in Leadership and Governance at the Elliott School.



For more on Dr. Nadler's accomplishments and impact on the university, visit [go.gwu.edu/nadler](http://go.gwu.edu/nadler).



### Richard C. Hottelet

Pioneering journalist Richard C. Hottelet, a James Clark Welling Presidential Fellow at GW from 2006 to 2008 and a frequent guest lecturer at the university for more than a decade, died Dec. 17 in Wilton, Conn. He was 97. Mr. Hottelet launched a storied career in Europe during World War II, where as a 23-year-old reporter he was imprisoned by the Nazis for four months. Three years later, in 1944, he joined the clutch of CBS News correspondents led by Edward R. Murrow that is credited with inventing broadcast news. Mr. Hottelet broadcast the first eyewitness account of the D-Day invasion, covered the Battle of the Bulge and parachuted to safety from a burning plane. After the war, he went on to cover many of the century's biggest stories, from the creation of the United Nations to the Watergate scandal, before retiring from CBS in 1985. Mr. Hottelet donated his papers to GW in 2007.



UPCOMING SHOWS BY GW PROFESSORS AND ALUMNI

# ARTISTS' QUARTER



Images of black males in doctoral regalia from Mr. Cook's exhibition, *From an Eighth to a Key*.

## A Sharper Focus on Identity

Underneath the glossy surface of each photo, there's a powerful challenge.

"My work deals with representation, particularly in the black community and black culture," says photographer Larry Cook, MFA '13. "It's asking the viewer, in looking at certain symbols in a different way, to raise their consciousness."

Since Mr. Cook took up photography at State University of New York at Plattsburgh, his aesthetic has become increasingly conceptual and it's earned him attention in the D.C. area, where he grew up. In 2013 he was selected as a fellow of U Street's Hamiltonian Gallery and last year turned heads with his first solo show, *From an Eighth to a Key*, which included photographs he took of black males in doctoral graduation regalia.

"I was really interested in playing off the assumptions that people have of black males by seeing how people respond to these subjects that may be stereotyped in a different context," he says. "That show was also trying to break this school-to-prison pipeline and

reintroduce a different view of black males."

His final show as a Hamiltonian fellow premieres May 15. The exhibition illustrates Mr. Cook's dexterity as a visual artist: He's working on video projects as well as sculptural pieces made from bulletproof vests.

Mr. Cook is also working on a series of photographs of black policemen. The idea

**"I was really interested in playing off the assumptions that people have of black males by seeing how people respond to these subjects that may be stereotyped in a different context."**

grew from headlines surrounding police brutality and an observation that people tend to associate policemen with being white.

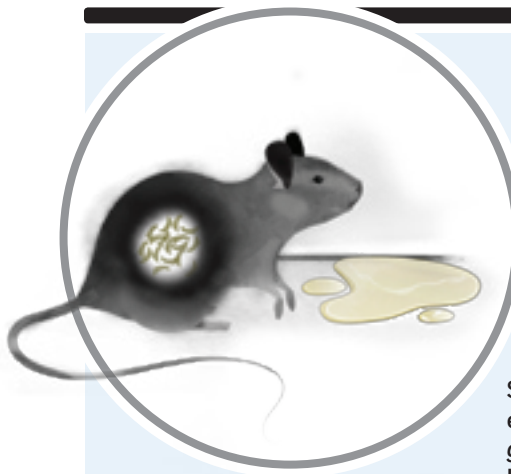
"The series looks at everything from the police institution to the ideology it represents and examines how those two things conflict with the men who actually wear the uniform," he says.

With protests in Ferguson, Mo., and elsewhere recently dominating the news, Mr. Cook's work seems more powerful and relevant than ever. But he explains the questions he's asking of viewers are the same ones he's always explored.

"What's currently happening in the media helps viewers make certain connections to my work," he says. "But I always try to remind people that what we're seeing isn't anything new." —**Julyssa Lopez**

For more on Mr. Cook's work, visit [larrywcook.com](http://larrywcook.com).

# INSTITUTIONAL KNOWLEDGE



## THE PUPPET MASTER

The single-celled parasite ***Toxoplasma gondii*** can only complete its lifecycle inside a cat's gut, but it can't make the journey alone. To get there, the parasite infects a rat and causes it to become attracted to cat urine, making the rat easy prey. Some controversial studies have even suggested that *Toxoplasma gondii* may be capable of altering human behavior, too.

## THE MOBSTER

**Brown-headed cowbirds** give up their young to unsuspecting adoptive parents by laying their eggs in the nests of other birds, tossing out others to make room. And it's an offer they can't refuse: The cowbirds destroy the nests of hosts that eject or puncture the foreign eggs.



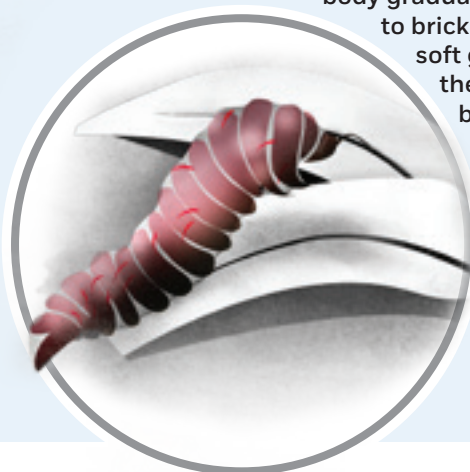
## THE ZOMBIE-MAKER

The alluring, metallic-bodied **jewel wasp** is technically a parasitoid: a mostly free-living animal that kills its host. The wasp enslaves a cockroach with two targeted stings to the brain, disabling its desire and ability to escape. The wasp then leads the zombie roach home, lays an egg on its body and buries it. A wasp larva emerges ... the cockroach does not.



## THE CONSPIRATORS

The parasitic worm ***Heterorhabditis bacteriophora*** does its reproductive work with a bacterial assist. Once the parasite infects a caterpillar, it releases bacteria that kill the host by hijacking its immune system. The parasite also releases an antibiotic, which keeps other bacteria at bay, while the host's body gradually changes from white to brick red, and even emits a soft glow. Scientists believe the bioluminescent bacteria, and red coloring may fend off hungry birds.



### BIOLOGY

## The Wild World of Parasites

While mirror turtle ants may seem menacing ("Hidden Brilliantly," Pg. 44), the stealthy thieves are downright charming compared to some of their peers. The planet is rife with devilish schemes for mooching off of unsuspecting hosts.

"Parasitism is the most abundant lifestyle on the planet. Even parasites are parasitized," says **John Hawdon**, an associate professor in the Department of Microbiology, Immunology and Tropical Medicine. Dr. Hawdon studies the molecular biology of hookworms, which infect an estimated 740 million people worldwide, and he teaches a course on parasitology. From brainwashing and enslavement to sterilization, parasitic behaviors are as diverse as they are bizarre. *GW Magazine* asked Dr. Hawdon to offer a few examples from the parasite playbook. —**Lauren Ingeno**





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