

GW



In Addition to History

Novelist Thomas Mallon imagines what
lies between the facts in the lives of
presidents and those around them.

“Desolate” is the word used by university photographer Logan Werlinger to describe this late-February view of the Jefferson Memorial taken en route to an assignment. As the fog obscured tourists, the memorial took on a mythical, Mount-Olympus-on-the-Tidal-Basin feel.





GW MAGAZINE SPRING 2016

A MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

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On the cover:

Thomas Mallon—that's his hand there—inserts himself into an Oval Office diorama handcrafted by John McGlasson; photographed by William Atkins.

LOGAN WERLINGER



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GW
TODAY

Two-year-old Blake Augburn holds a book at Smart from the Start, an early-learning center in Southeast D.C.



Cranking Up the Volumes

Back in 1992, when friends Kyle Zimmer, JD '87, Elizabeth Arky, JD '86, and Peter Gold started the nonprofit First Book, they handed out 12,000 books, which is pretty tremendous. That was 24 years ago. As Julyssa Lopez reports in this issue, First Book now distributes 15 million free and low-cost books each year, a number that over time has added up to 140 million books.

"Millions" has lost a bit of grandiosity over time; it's muddy turf, being both a somewhat household term and still almost unimaginably vast. So let's put this into perspective: One-hundred-and-forty million copies of *The Cat in the Hat* laid end to end lengthwise—the hardback copy in my home, anyway—would span the 2-mile trek between the Lincoln Memorial and the U.S. Capitol more than

10,000 times. Standing atop one another, they would climb to the International Space Station and back again 40 times. Or, packed and shipped, they would be nearly enough to put two books into the hands of every person 18 years or younger in the U.S.

The volume is staggering, but so is the implication: The unmet need is that deep. And perhaps the most compelling thing First Book does has little to do with volume; it has to do with content.

It's a massive effort that diffuses into many more hundreds of millions of microscopic impacts that could remake the surfaces on which a generation will build its creativity, its confidence and its awareness of self and others.

Danny Freedman, BA '01
MANAGING EDITOR
@TheGWMagazine

Enduring Fondness

Emerita professor Honey Nashman, at her home on Lake Barcroft in Falls Church, Va.



I just finished reading your article on Honey Nashman (“The Sweet Life,” winter 2016). I had Professor Nashman when I attended GW and thought she was amazing. I just want you to know how much I thoroughly enjoyed her story.

She has done so many great things for the university and has touched so many people. I feel very proud to have had her as a professor and that I can say I am a graduate of GWU.

Lisa A. Clark, BA '86

Gone but Not Forgotten

What a great picture of Floretta McKenzie (“In Memoriam,”

winter 2016) and that warm smile of hers! During her tenure, I happened to sit next to her on a long airplane flight and found her to be so very outgoing and pleasant. She introduced herself, smiled constantly and never stopped chatting with me during the entire flight. I’ve never forgotten those hours, nor her great accomplishments as superintendent.

And how wonderful to see the warm smile of the next generation on the front cover!

**Thomas J. Moran, MA '05
Arlington, Va.**

Editing Artifact

I found the article about Daniel Weiss, the Metropolitan Museum’s new president (“You Are Here,” winter 2016), interesting enough to read it through before breakfast this morning.

Dr. Weiss is described as “the Met’s new president and chief

operating officer” on Page 29. To my confusion, there is reference on Page 32 to a mysterious Dr. Campbell, “the museum president and CEO.”

An otherwise interesting article; glad to learn the Weiss family still has roots in Pennsylvania.

**Rena B. Burstein, BA '48
Bryn Mawr, Penn.**

Thomas Campbell is the museum’s director and CEO. Titles for both men are correct on p. 29, but when Dr. Campbell is reintroduced on p. 32, his role is misidentified. We regret the error. —Eds.

A Negative for Photography

I read with interest the “Just Passing Through” article in the winter 2016 issue with marvelous photography that is becoming a lost art through the dawning of the digital image age. So many pictures today are taken with the mindset of spray and pray, with no

electrons harmed in this production. On the other hand, we are rapidly approaching generations that will have little written or pictorial history, due to everything being saved “in the cloud.” Phones get lost and technology evolves so rapidly. How recently have we seen a 3 ½-inch floppy disk or misplaced that thumb drive? A hard-copy photograph or negative can be restored and brought back to life by a skilled technician. The craftsmanship of a true photographer is irreplaceable to save those memories. Perhaps your family album will become the hieroglyphics of our generation thousands of years from now.

**Jon Sandberg, MFS '81
Olympia, Wash.**

The Thing About Incunables

As a GW alumnus in American Studies and retired head of rare books and manuscripts at the Earl Gregg Swem Library at the College of William and Mary, I very much enjoyed your article (“Legally Bound,” winter 2016) in the latest issue of *GW Magazine*, which I received today. The law library certainly has a quite impressive collection.

I hope you will excuse me for pointing out two small errors. Incunables are books printed up to and including the year 1500 [rather than “before 1500,” as the story states]. Since there was no year zero, the 15th century ran from 1401 through 1500, not 1400 through 1499. Also, the Providence Athenaeum is in Rhode Island.

John Haskell, MPhil '72, PhD '77

Thanks for mentioning these errors. A hand is planted firmly on our collective forehead for not catching those. One thing we enjoy about this magazine is getting to write for such a widely informed audience. There’s scarcely an article we could ink that doesn’t have an expert among you out there somewhere, which makes it fun and challenging. Thanks for reading. —Eds.



Keepsakes

This photo and letter below popped up in our inbox and it made us wonder: **What reminders of GW do you keep around?** Let us know at magazine@gwu.edu or on Twitter @TheGWMagazine.

My daughter made this sign for me, it is in my backyard. I met husband-to-be, Gaspar Messina, BS '76 (now deceased), at GW; My mother's people came from Munderkingen, Germany (master chimney sweeps); my dad came from Steamboat Rock, Iowa (Friesian farmer's son); the Chinese took the mythical *Lost Horizon* city name and renamed an existing city; golden dragons from Pern are fighting females; some of my offspring and the sign-maker live in Rhode Island; and I spent my childhood on the shore of the Chesapeake Bay in Maryland.
Carla Harms Messina, MS '62
Bethesda, Md.



What They're Saying on Twitter



Stacy Parker LeMelle @StacyLeMelle

This cover feat. @jus242 made my weekend. How great is this! Content & design. Bravo @TheGWMagazine



Bob Poogach @Raprasrav

Hard copy of @TheGWMagazine came in the mail today. Terrific cover featuring @jus242 w/ equally good article inside



Laurie Gibbons @LaDolceEsq

The things you learn when you bring @TheGWMagazine on the train. @GWtweets pls make these into a t-shirt I can buy!



Danielle Cormier-Smith @daniellecormier

Who knew Coach is such a fashionista? <3 the new fight-song themed uniform: <http://magazine.gwu.edu/fashion-forward> via @TheGWMagazine #RaiseHigh



All Write!

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Letters may be edited for clarity and space.

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“You’re in a place that can help you fulfill your goals, but you have to really want it and go after it. Break the walls down.”

MICHAEL JORDAN’S SPORTS AGENT DAVID FALK, JD ’75 (P. 18)

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TEACHING

Poetry in Motion

A second-career English teacher helps kids find their voice and confidence in school through “wrestling with words.”

// By Ruth Steinhardt

Topher Kandik, MEd '07, works with an Advanced Placement English student at the SEED School of Washington, D.C.

LOGAN WERLINGER

A student works on a poetry and vocabulary exercise in Topher Kandik's AP English class.

Ecstatic

' ' We dropped our toys, leapt
from our meals, and scrambled
out the door ' ' — Andrew

G.T

Topher Kandik was working as a high-level fundraiser at a prestigious arts organization when a chance encounter on a Metro train changed his life.

"This big guy came and stood over me. And, you know, when you're on the Metro and someone approaches you, you get a little nervous," Mr. Kandik remembers. "Then he said, 'Topher?'"

Mr. Kandik recognized the man as a former "chubby little boy" named Marcus. He had mentored Marcus in an after-school playwriting program in D.C.

"He was saying, 'I had so much fun doing that play. I need to get a copy.' It was the worst play ever—maybe eight lines—but the class had so much fun. And I thought, 'Why am I

spending all day talking to rich people?'"

Before long, Mr. Kandik was a master's student at GW's Graduate School of Education and Human Development. After graduating in 2007, he joined the SEED School of Washington, D.C.—a public charter school for grades 6-12 in the city's historically underserved Southeast quadrant—and has remained there ever since as an English language arts teacher.

In December, he was named the 2016 District of Columbia Teacher of the Year. The award, given by the city's Office of the Superintendent of Education, marks the distance he has traveled from his shaky first day leading a high school classroom.

"I was a deer in the headlights,"

Mr. Kandik remembers. "The students were taken aback. I had done all this planning, and I couldn't get a word out.

"But then someone cracked a joke and, in the long term, it was a net positive. After having that terror on the first day—you can't be afraid of making a mistake because you've already done it. The kids will forgive you, and you can move on."

FEBRUARY RAIN drizzled gloomily outside the windows of a conference room at SEED. Inside, two rows of teenagers stood facing each other, shifting and giggling.

"Without conflict, there is no drama. Without drama, there is no poetry!" Regie Cabico calls out. "We are triggering some drama!"

Mr. Kandik leans forward a little, calmly narrowing the space between him and his students. “Remember,” he says, “this isn’t a shouting match.”

Mr. Cabico—a D.C. performance artist Mr. Kandik had invited to help run a day of classes—backs him up, then readies the students again. “On your mark, get set, go!”

In ragged unison, the group on the left says their assigned line: “I can’t do it.”

Like an orchestral conductor, Mr. Cabico raises his arms to cue the second row of students.

“You can do it!” they call back.

Their partners gain conviction—but, mindful of their teacher’s directions, not too much volume. “I can’t do it!”

“You can do it!”

Mr. Kandik, watching from the sidelines, smiles. Mr. Cabico was directing this 11th-grade English class in improvisational warmups as part of their preparation for the Poetry Out Loud competition.

When he first brought the nationwide competition to the school several years ago, Mr. Kandik says, it was almost impossible to convince his self-conscious teenage students to embrace it.

“They would just take a zero on the assignment,” he says, rather than do something as potentially embarrassing as reciting poetry in front of their classmates.

But now, Poetry Out Loud is a SEED institution. Every student chooses a poem from the organization’s database to memorize and recite, and classes choose one winner to send to a school-wide contest in early March. Mr. Kandik says students are much more confident about participating and more supportive of their fellow competitors now that they’ve all had to do it themselves.

Last year’s champion, a boy named Chris with a hesitant smile, was in the classroom. His winning selection: Joel Nelson’s 28-line *Equus Caballus*. As Mr. Kandik explains that the winner at SEED goes on to regional and, if successful there, national competitions, Chris gestures toward himself with a thumb. *That’s gonna be me*, he mouths jokingly.

Chris, Mr. Kandik says later during an interview, is an example of the effect arts integration can have on students who may not excel in traditional academics.

“Every year, one or two students who

have been failing up to then do well [at Poetry Out Loud], and then they take that success and build on it. Chris is an example,” Mr. Kandik says. “He was pretty disengaged until Poetry Out Loud, and then, it was like it gave him an excuse to throw himself into something. Once he did that, it became his thing.”

Mr. Kandik says one of his most essential insights as a teacher has been that no student wants to fail, but not all have the opportunity to envision themselves as successful.

“Even the most jaded, the most defiant kid wants to do well on stuff,” he says. “They know they haven’t, and they know it’s been a chore, so they decide to throw their hands up. But that doesn’t mean they’re lost. That doesn’t mean they don’t want people, whether it’s their teachers or peers, to tell them they’ve done a good job.”

That realization is part of the reason Mr. Kandik tries to bring as many influences and activities into the classroom as possible.

“IT WAS THE WORST PLAY EVER—MAYBE EIGHT LINES— BUT THE CLASS HAD SO MUCH FUN. AND I THOUGHT, ‘WHY AM I SPENDING ALL DAY TALKING TO RICH PEOPLE?’”

“The kid who hasn’t been playing nice could make a switch and really be into something we’re doing,” he says. “You might not even know it in the moment, but eventually it comes out.

“That’s like the Marcus realization,” he says, referring to the former mentee in the playwriting class who stopped him on the Metro. “When we were actually doing [the class], it didn’t seem like he cared. It was only later that I knew it had mattered to him.”

But Mr. Kandik is aware that in an educational environment that is increasingly focused on quantifiable results, it’s not always easy to convince school administrators to diversify their students’ opportunities.

“The sad thing is that [arts integration] actually helps with test results,” he says. When students compete in Poetry Out Loud, for

instance, “they’re wrestling with words and interpretation, and, more importantly, they’re becoming more confident and comfortable in the classroom.”

INVITING OUTSIDERS like Mr. Cabico into the classroom has always been part of Mr. Kandik’s classroom philosophy.

“He never views the classroom as a totally contained space,” says Brian Casemore, an associate professor of curriculum and pedagogy who worked with Mr. Kandik during and after his time at GSEHD. “Those boundaries for him were porous from the beginning.”

Mr. Kandik’s previous career in arts fundraising left him with connections all over the city, and he works extensively with local and national organizations such as PEN/Faulkner, 826DC and the American Film Institute.

“Part of what makes Topher such a good teacher is that he has his finger on the pulse of the city and its culture,” says Mr. Cabico, who has known Mr. Kandik for almost a decade.

The day before Mr. Cabico’s visit, Pushcart Prize-winning author Celeste Ng joined his Advanced Placement English class as part of a PEN/Faulkner partnership. So did about a dozen students from Maret, a private school in Northwest Washington—an ongoing arrangement that Mr. Kandik says helps students from both schools broaden their horizons.

“I think there are artificial barriers we put up, and one of them is the school you go to,” he says. “Why should kids at SEED not interact with kids

from Wilson or Maret or Sidwell Friends?”

Making that connection is part of Mr. Kandik’s commitment to educational and social justice. He wants his students, almost all of whom are African American and from low- to middle-income families, to have the same opportunities as their private school counterparts. He integrates current events like the Black Lives Matter movement into the curriculum, linking present-day activism with the long history of civil rights struggles.

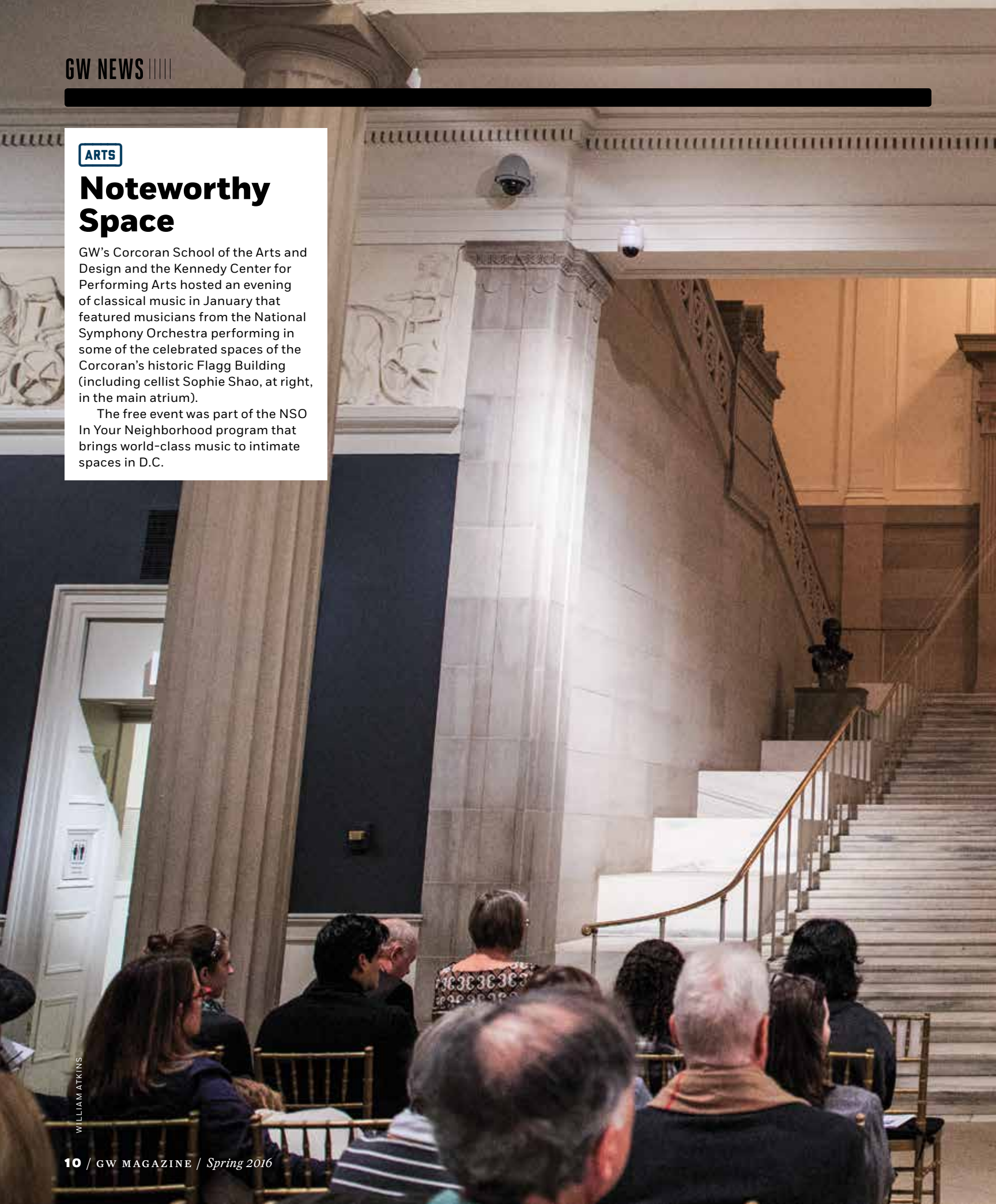
“My AP class reads a lot of slave narratives, and we notice time and time again that knowledge is dangerous,” Mr. Kandik says. “There are all these stereotypes of dangerous black youth, but in a sense that’s what I want my students to be: dangerous, equipped with ideas. Once you have discipline and context, then you become a powerful person.”

ARTS

Noteworthy Space

GW's Corcoran School of the Arts and Design and the Kennedy Center for Performing Arts hosted an evening of classical music in January that featured musicians from the National Symphony Orchestra performing in some of the celebrated spaces of the Corcoran's historic Flagg Building (including cellist Sophie Shao, at right, in the main atrium).

The free event was part of the NSO In Your Neighborhood program that brings world-class music to intimate spaces in D.C.



WILLIAM ATKINS



W.A. CLARK COLLECTION

John C. Tyler Ga



SCHOLARSHIPS

Sakiya Walker, a Duke Ellington School of the Arts senior, accepts a full-ride Stephen Joel Trachtenberg Scholarship from GW President Steven Knapp in March, one of 10 awards on a day of surprise visits to D.C. schools, which Dr. Knapp called “my favorite day of the year.”

ADMISSIONS

Applications Rise 28 Percent

Applications to become a first-year undergraduate student entering in fall 2016 were 28 percent higher than the previous year, the university announced in February.

As of Jan. 15, GW received 25,431 applications from prospective students around the world. By comparison, for fall 2015, the university received a total of 19,833 applications.

Students who chose to apply test-optional accounted for about 20 percent of the applications. Admissions officials said they believe GW’s new test-optional policy was a factor in the rise in applications. Other factors included targeted outreach to school counselors, a more personalized and data-driven approach to recruitment, and a revamped campus visit experience.

The decision to adopt a test-optional admissions policy was influenced, in part, by a concern that outstanding students who did not earn high scores on the SAT or ACT may have felt discouraged from applying. At the same time, studies have indicated that a sustained commitment to a rigorous course of study and exceptional academic performance in high school are the best indicators of how a student will fare in college.

In the first year since implementing the policy, GW has seen an increase in applications from underrepresented groups, including African-American, Latino and international students. Applications from first-generation college students increased by nearly 1,100.

“We adopted our test-optional policy to strengthen and diversify an already outstanding applicant pool by reaching out to exceptional students who have been underrepresented at selective colleges and universities,” GW President Steven Knapp says. “These initial results suggest that our efforts are on the right track.”

Applications for early decision for fall 2016 rose by more than 30 percent over 2015, to 1,373. GW was slated to accept 841 early decision applicants for fall 2016 compared to 780 for the previous class. The students GW accepted for early decision have a median and mean GPA that is slightly higher than the early decision class the previous year. **GW**

For more on this story, visit
go.gwu.edu/spring16admissions

PHILANTHROPY

\$2.5M Donation Endows Institute for Religious Freedom at GW

A new institute focused on religious freedom has been established and endowed at GW through a \$2.5 million donation from the John L. Loeb Jr. Foundation and the New York City-based George Washington Institute for Religious Freedom, the university announced in January.

The Ambassador John L. Loeb Jr. Institute for Religious Freedom at GW will foster dialogue on religious understanding and the separation of church and state, and will serve as a center for academic collaboration in religion, peace studies, history, political science and other programs for scholars, students, educators and the public.

Educational programs that had been offered through the New York-based institute, also founded by Amb. Loeb, will be transferred to the university. The George Washington Institute for Religious Freedom,

though, will continue to operate the Loeb Visitors Center at the Touro Synagogue National Historic Site in Newport, R.I.

Before the First Amendment guaranteed freedom of religion, President George Washington was an early advocate for religious minorities. His 1790 letter to the Touro Synagogue in Newport, penned after he and then-Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson visited the city, promised that the nation would “give to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance” and defined freedom of belief as the “inherent natural right” of every American.

The institute will be housed within the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences.

Amb. Loeb, who served as the U.S. ambassador to Denmark from 1981 to 1983 and as a delegate to the United Nations, is a businessman, philanthropist and art collector. He was a partner of the Wall Street investment banking and brokerage firm Loeb, Rhoades and Co., from 1957 to 1979.

“I can’t think of a more appropriate institution to carry on the work of the George Washington Institute for Religious Freedom than this university, named for our first president himself,” Amb. Loeb said. “GW’s new institute will enable the university to tell the story of how Washington’s letter helped define this nation.” **GW**

Inaugural Director Named for Autism Institute

Yale researcher takes helm of the new endeavor aimed at becoming the go-to center for research and services in the D.C. area

Early in his career, as a researcher at Duke University, Kevin Pelphrey was studying the development of the so-called social brain, which governs facial recognition, eye gaze and other functions related to personal interaction.

At the time, more than a decade ago, his work only touched on autism spectrum disorder (ASD), of which deficits in social functioning are a hallmark. But his focus changed after his 3-year-old daughter was diagnosed with autism.

“Before, I was intellectually interested in helping people, but I never imagined that I could see treatments that will benefit my child in my lifetime,” Dr. Pelphrey says. “It does give me drive.”

Dr. Pelphrey, now a leading ASD researcher, brings that passion to GW, where this winter he became the inaugural director of the university’s Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders Institute.

The institute was created in partnership with Children’s National Medical Center with the aim of becoming the go-to place for cross-disciplinary research on autism, which is estimated to affect 1 in 68 children in the United States. Dr. Pelphrey says much of the institute’s work will focus on less-studied topics: expanding the body of research on autism in girls (the disorder is almost five times more common among boys), developing interventions for adolescents and adults with autism, and helping them transition to adulthood.

The institute, which will be based on the Virginia Science and Technology Campus in Ashburn, Va., also will seek to inform public

policy and legislative efforts aimed at making accessible and affordable services available for adolescents and adults with autism and neurodevelopmental disabilities.

Dr. Pelphrey comes to GW from Yale University, where he served as the Harris Professor in the Yale Child Study Center, a professor of psychology and the founding director of Yale’s Center for Translational Developmental Neuroscience. He has active research grants totaling around \$20 million, including work as the lead researcher of a network studying the neurogenetics of females with ASD, part of the National Institutes of Health’s Autism Centers of Excellence Program.

Research on the social brain and improved brain imaging have led to a better understanding of autism in girls, which, until recently, was more difficult to detect, Dr. Pelphrey says.

“Girls develop their social brain earlier, which insulates them,” he says. “It means they can have a genetic risk without presenting symptoms because their brains are

compensating. We study how their brains are compensating and can hopefully apply those principles to help children and adolescents with autism cope.”

Dr. Pelphrey “understands the science behind the disorder and the importance of approaching it not just as a diagnosis but in a more holistic fashion,” says GW’s Vice President for Research Leo Chalupa. “I am confident that he will build the institute into a top-tier resource for individuals with autism and their families.”

Dr. Pelphrey’s position—as the inaugural

Carbonell Family Professor in Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders—was created as a gift of Board of Trustees Chair Nelson Carbonell, whose son Dylan was diagnosed with autism when he was 2 years old.

“To see a university that wants to get into this game and to see that the chair of the Board of Trustees is someone who wants to drive that research is the most wonderful thing,” Dr. Pelphrey says. “It’s like the entire university is in line with a singular vision.”

More than 80 faculty members from the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, the School of Law, the Graduate School of Education and Human Development, the School of Medicine and Health Sciences and the Milken Institute School of Public Health currently work on projects related to autism and neurodevelopmental disorders.

Looking ahead long term, Dr. Pelphrey says he envisions the creation of a summer course for clinicians and families who are planning for the transition to adulthood for adolescents with autism; an undergraduate course for students interested in autism research, and, someday, a residential college within the university for college-age young adults with autism.

Eventually, he says, “I would like for anyone in the D.C. area who Googles ‘autism’ to see that they have a place to come that has everything they need.” —**Brittney Dunkins**

“
I would like for anyone in the D.C. area who Googles ‘autism’ to see that they have a place to come that has everything they need.

Kevin Pelphrey





COURTESY OF MATTHEW LUTZ AND CHRIS REID

BIOLOGY

Ants That Don't Just Build Architecture, They Become It

A colony of the army ant *Eciton hamatum* can contain hundreds of thousands of ants. Those ants spend their days out looking for other ant nests to raid. When they find one, they fight, steal the larvae and carry the tasty spoils back to their young.

But army ants aren't just raiders. They're also architects, using their own bodies to make their trails faster and smoother. As they run, they cross over leaves, twigs, holes—and the bodies of their sisters.

"These self-assembling structures that army ants build are very unique in the ant world," says GW biology professor Scott Powell. Army ants plug potholes in the forest floor and build ladders to help the colony traverse tree trunks. They even build a temporary nest, complete with tunnels and rooms, that's reassembled every night by living ants who grab onto each other and hold on tight.

Dr. Powell studied how the ants plug holes as a graduate student. Now he is part of a team of researchers trying to understand more about how army ants build one kind of structure: bridges.

The question, he says, is this: "How do you have these relatively simple, uninformed individuals that interact to solve a bigger problem?"

For a new study, Dr. Powell's

co-authors—Chris Reid, then a postdoctoral fellow at the New Jersey Institute of Technology, and Matthew Lutz, a PhD student at Princeton University—carried out experiments with colonies of army ants living on Barro Colorado Island, a Smithsonian research site in the Panama Canal.

The first step each day was to hike through the forest until they came across a column of foraging ants. Then Dr. Reid and Mr. Lutz had to coax the ants onto an experimental apparatus. Army ants move fast and pack a nasty sting. Poking them with sticks is a bad idea. Instead, the scientists used a trick they learned from Dr. Powell: spraying water from a plastic bottle to gently encourage the ants toward the ramp.

"Within about 10 or 15 minutes we had the ants already redirected through our maze and happily foraging, none the wiser that they were being experimented on," Dr. Reid says.

Once on the apparatus, the ants were sent on a V-shaped detour, a pair of skinny plastic platforms connected by a hinge. In every experiment, the ants started a bridge at the joint between the two platforms—the pointy inner corner of the V-shape. Gradually, more ants would glom onto the outside edge of the bridge, which then inched away from the corner and back toward the line of the main trail.

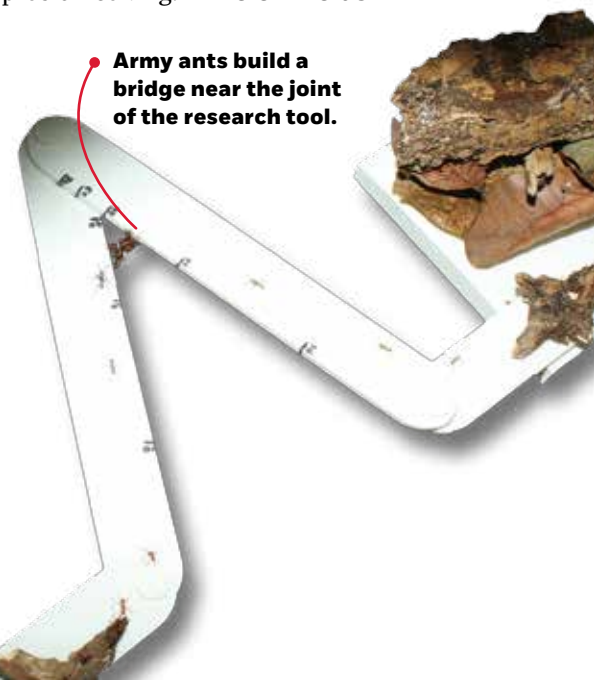
The researchers found that the ants didn't always make the shortest possible route. Instead, they adjusted the bridges constantly. When more ants were running through, the bridge moved farther to make a shorter route; when traffic let up, the bridge moved back toward the corner. The research was published in December in the *Proceedings of the*

National Academy of Sciences.

The researchers developed mathematical models that suggest the ants are constantly managing the costs and benefits of the bridge. Bridges speed traffic, but tying up ants in bridges means risking having inadequate numbers at a battle.

For the next step, Dr. Powell and Simon Garnier of the New Jersey Institute of Technology, another author of the paper, hope to study more structures—and to collaborate with a group of researchers who work with a kind of simple robot that operates in swarms. Some day it might be possible to make robots that would assemble themselves into a bridge and adjust according to traffic, like the ants do.

"It's just a bunch of ants running around in the forest," Dr. Powell says, but it's also something else: "an extreme example of collective problem solving." —Helen Fields



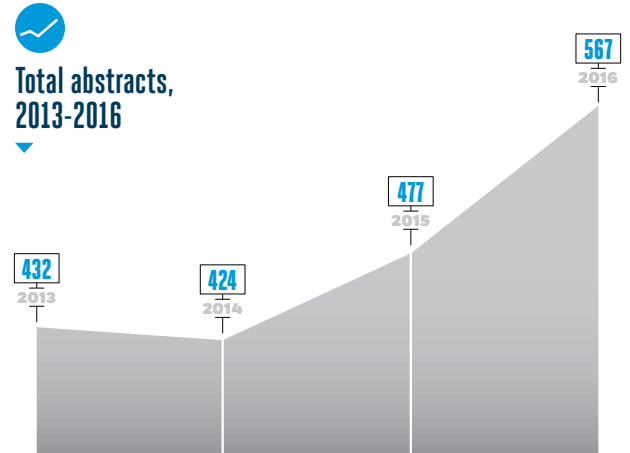
Army ants build a bridge near the joint of the research tool.

STUDENT RESEARCH

A RECORD NUMBER OF ABSTRACTS—for projects ranging from the humanities to biomedical engineering, health sciences and world affairs—were submitted by students and faculty members for the university’s 21st annual Research Days on March 29 and 30. Here’s a quick look at participation by school or other entity and total entries over the past few years.

Research Days Abstracts by School/Institute/Affiliate	2016 Total
▲ Children’s National Medical Center	2
● Columbian College of Arts and Sciences	181
● Corcoran School of the Arts and Design	5
● Elliott School of International Affairs	19
● Graduate School of Education and Human Development	5
■ Institute of Biomedical Sciences	21
● Milken Institute School of Public Health	71
● School of Business	3
● School of Media and Public Affairs	4
● School of Medicine and Health Sciences	196
● School of Engineering and Applied Science	50
● School of Nursing	9
▲ Veterans Affairs Medical Center	1

● School / ■ Institute / ▲ Affiliate



SUMMER *At* GW

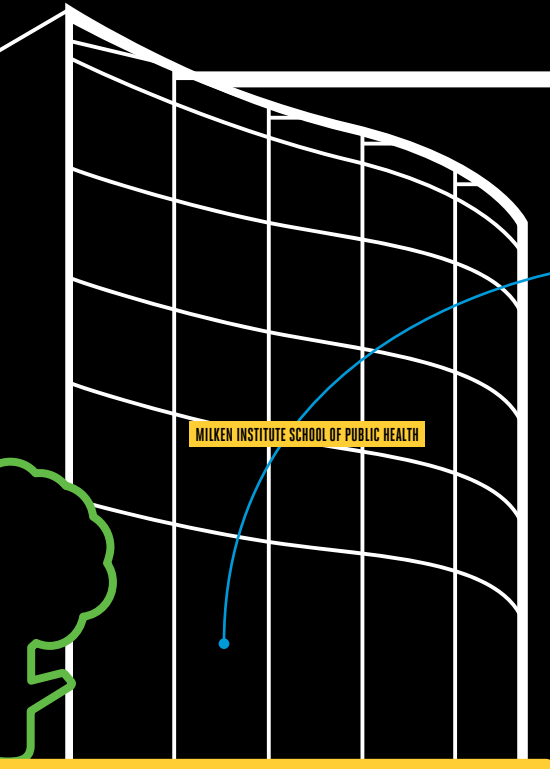
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- ▶ **GW Pre-College Program:** Credit & noncredit summer programs for high school students
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IN BRIEF



MILKEN INSTITUTE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Childhood obesity expert William Dietz, who joined GW in 2014 as director of the Sumner M. Redstone Global Center for Prevention and Wellness, was installed in March as the inaugural Sumner M. Redstone Chair in a ceremony at the Milken Institute School of Public Health. Dr. Dietz previously spent 15 years as the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity.



SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING HALL

GW moved up 10 spots to No. 83 in new National Science Foundation rankings of federal research funding expenditures for 2014. In total R&D expenditures—which include funding from the government, the university and others—GW rose to No. 92, up from No. 98 the previous year. Expenditures are a key measure of research activity.



CHARLES E. SMITH CENTER

The amount, approximately, raised for athletics during the annual Buff & Blue Fund Challenge. That includes a \$15,000 bonus from Michelle Rubin, BA '91, chair of the GW Athletics Advisory Council, which was divided among the three teams with the highest percentage of alumni donors. (Gymnastics was tops, with gifts from nearly half its alumnae.) In all, more than 600 athletics alumni participated.



The School of Media and Public Affairs celebrates its 25th anniversary this year with a series of events, including a May 6 celebration. For more information, including how to register for the celebration, visit smpa.gwu.edu/silver-anniversary.

Elliott School Dean Reuben E. Brigety II in January joined the Council on Foreign Relations as an adjunct senior fellow for African peace and security issues with its Center for Preventive Action.



ELLIOTT SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

“

[I]t was a very dynamic process. He would read the articles, and he would debate—quite energetically at times. It was a real Socratic exchange, and he took that process very seriously.


—John D. Negroponte, speaking to *GW Today* about delivering the daily intelligence briefing to President George W. Bush, under whom he served as the director of national intelligence. A former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, he joins GW as the J.B. and Maurice C. Shapiro Professor of International Affairs.

For more on these stories, visit GW Today at gwtoday.gwu.edu

New 'Horned' Dinosaur Identified

Researchers from GW and China have described a new species of plant-eating dinosaur that stood on its hind feet and was about the size of a spaniel. *Hualianceratops wucuiwanensis* lived around 160 million years ago, making it similar in age to the oldest-known member of the "horned dinosaurs," *Yinlong downsi*, although both are hornless.

The researchers—who included GW biology professors James Clark and Catherine Forster—discovered both species in the same fossil beds, which they say suggests that this family of dinosaurs was more diverse than previously thought during the Jurassic Period.


The findings were published in December in the journal *PLOS ONE*. 



For more on Dr. Clark, the Ronald Weintraub Professor of Biology, who has discovered nearly 40 species of dinosaurs, visit gwimpact.org/academics/jurassic-clark



Multimillion-Dollar Grants Boost Workforce Equity, Drug Design Research

GW's Health Workforce Institute announced in March a \$5.5 million award from The Atlantic Philanthropies to build programs that will prepare leaders to reduce health workforce disparities, and to develop pipelines for underserved students in the D.C. area who are interested in health care and careers in the health sciences. Separately, chemistry professor Cynthia Dowd has been awarded a \$2.6 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to study a promising new pathway to treat malaria and tuberculosis. "Drug resistance is so rampant that we need to design new ways to treat these diseases," Dr. Dowd says. 



An artist's impression of a black hole. Scientists believe black holes are at the center of most massive galaxies, including our own.

Scientists Watch As Black Hole Swallows Star

A team of astrophysicists for the first time watched from the beginning as a supermassive black hole drew in a star, ripped it apart and ejected an outflow of matter—a cosmic burp—moving at nearly the speed of light. Their research tracks the star's destruction and the simultaneous eruption of a short, spectacular radio-wave flare. "We have never seen matter from a star streaming into a supermassive black hole and the black hole emitting a stream of matter at the same time," says Alexander van der Horst, a GW physics professor who was part of the team. The observation, he says, will help scientists understand the formation of these outflows, called jets. Supermassive black holes are believed to be at the center of most massive galaxies, including our own Milky Way. The findings were published in the journal *Science* in November. —Ruth Steinhardt

Study Finds Racial Bias in Promotion of NFL Coaches

White NFL position coaches are 114 percent more likely to be promoted to coordinator positions than their minority peers, regardless of age, experience or career performance, according to a study released in January by researchers from the GW School of Business and three other institutions. Though not covered by the NFL's Rooney Rule—which requires teams to interview minority candidates for head coaching and senior operations jobs—these promotions can have an effect on the racial makeup of head coaches. Offensive and defensive coordinator positions are directly beneath the head coach. Tracking the careers of more than 1,200 coaches from 1985 to 2012, the researchers found 70 percent of head coach hirings involve a promotion from a coordinator position. —James Irwin

RECOGNITION

A Few Recent Accolades, by the Numbers:

1 Ranking among *The Princeton Review's* best schools for **INTERNSHIPS**
 ↓
CONSECUTIVE YEARS in the top spot **3**

1 Ranking among mid-size colleges and universities producing **PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS**
 ↳ Number of years in the top spot **5** of the past **10**

43 Number of **ALUMNI CURRENTLY SERVING** in the Peace Corps around the world

Number of Colonials in the Peace Corps **SINCE ITS FOUNDING** in 1961 **1,189**

10 GW ALUMNI **6** GW FACULTY MEMBERS
 ↳ Number of 2015-16 **FULBRIGHT SCHOLARS** and students produced

1934
 Year that **U.S. SEN. J. WILLIAM FULBRIGHT** received a Bachelor of Laws degree from GW

Sources: The Princeton Review, Peace Corps and The Chronicle of Higher Education



LAW

Claim to FAME

David Falk, JD '75—Michael Jordan's agent—establishes entrepreneurship program at law school

He has represented NBA superstars Juwan Howard and Allen Iverson. In the mid-1980s, he negotiated for Patrick Ewing the then-highest contract in NBA history. And he is the career-long agent to the legendary Michael Jordan—even originating the idea for the unprecedentedly successful Air Jordan sneaker.

But for David Falk, failure is perhaps more important than success.

"When you err—and you're going to err—you have to learn from it," Mr. Falk, JD '75, told an audience at GW in January.

Mr. Falk was here to launch his Falk Academy of Management and Entrepreneurship, or FAME, a new initiative within the law school's business law program that will emphasize experiential learning, entrepreneurship and innovation for prospective lawyers. The launch was hosted by the law school's Center for Law, Economics and Finance.

"Unlike most benefactors who put their name on the building and walk away, fortunately or unfortunately I plan to be very involved," said Mr. Falk, who plans to teach as part of the FAME program and will establish an advisory board for it.

Imposing but personable, Mr. Falk shared recollections of his storied career, dispensed no-nonsense advice and pushed his audience "never to settle for second best."

One of his great career successes, he said, was also his most memorable failure: coming up with the idea of Air Jordans, but—failing to anticipate that the shoes would be as wildly successful as they were—negotiating for a major up-front payment instead of a smaller one with larger royalties with every sale.

"Nothing's foolproof," he admitted. "If I could go back, I'd ask for a dollar and 50 percent."

Taking questions about his most iconic client, whose charisma has made his personal brand into one of the most successful in history, Mr. Falk said there would "never be another Michael Jordan."

"Michael wasn't trying to be the next Dr. J. He wasn't trying to be the next anybody. He's just himself," Mr. Falk said. "It's a once-in-a-lifetime kind of a deal. We all got a little bit lucky."

He advised students in the audience to have "high aspirations."

"You're in a place that can help you fulfill your goals, but you have to really want it and go after it," he said. "Break the walls down."

—Ruth Steinhardt

WILLIAM ATKINS

When the State Department wanted to create a base of college students to help advocate for the more than 4.5 million Syrian refugees displaced by civil war, officials didn't need to look far. A few blocks away, Elliott School students stepped up to launch the first college branch of an initiative called No Lost Generation. Junior **Matthew Donovan**, co-director of the GW group, spoke with GW Magazine in February about its work, coffee with diplomats and student appetite for change.

How did the group come about?

No Lost Generation is a coalition of about 20 humanitarian and governmental groups, including the State Department, that have come together to provide protection, education and services to Syrian refugees. Last summer, State Department officials approached Edward "Skip" Gnehm, a professor at the Elliott School and a former ambassador to Kuwait, because they wanted to connect with student leaders at GW to further student engagement with the initiative. After two meetings with the State Department, my co-director [senior] Lucas Kuo and I ran with the idea to create No Lost Generation GWU. Our first priority was figuring out how to take the Syrian refugee crisis out of the news cycle and put it into action on campus.

What have you been able to do so far?

This is the largest migration crisis since World War II, and No Lost Generation comes from the idea that there will be a generation of young people who are expected to return to their country and lead. If they don't have an education, they can't do that. One of the ways we are helping is by partnering with an organization called Rumie, based in Toronto. Rumie loads tablets with expert-approved educational content that can be accessed offline, and it deploys those tablets to Syrian refugees around the world. Since we can't be on the ground, we support Rumie by researching basic arithmetic, science and other lessons in Arabic and English that then are vetted by their experts and loaded onto tablets. We also co-hosted a fundraiser for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees with the GW International Affairs Society, and attended a dinner at the Kuwaiti Embassy along with President [Steven] Knapp, Deputy Secretary of State Tony Blinken and the president of the Malala Fund, Meighan Stone. When you reach out and say, "We are the first collegiate population looking to help," it is a huge draw, and people see it as an opportunity to expand their cause and their reach.

5 QUESTIONS

...On Advocating for Syrian Refugees



**Matthew
Donovan**

"OUR FIRST PRIORITY WAS FIGURING OUT HOW TO TAKE THE ... CRISIS OUT OF THE NEWS CYCLE AND PUT IT INTO ACTION ON CAMPUS."

What kinds of opportunities have come about as a result of starting the group?

Lucas and I always say that since starting this, we find ourselves in places we didn't think we would be in 20 years. The State Department is right here, and the ability to meet with officers after work or grab coffee during the day is really unprecedented. I am one of 10 members who are also participating in the State Department's Virtual Student Foreign Service—usually it's a remote internship, but we've been able to work with them on a regular basis to build our organization and have speakers come to campus. We also had a working meeting with Sarah Mendelson, who is one of the five ambassadors to the U.S. Mission to the United Nations. Typically this kind of thing is a just a photo op, but this was a working meeting where she offered advice and we discussed possibilities for joint programming.

Was there an appetite for this on campus?

Absolutely. It became clear, very quickly, that there are so many students looking for an opportunity to get involved in a cause but have difficulty finding an outlet where they can see change happen. We've attracted 65 students in about three months, and every member completes a minimum of four hours of service each week, which totals more than 3,000 hours since September. Even though we started with mostly Elliott School students, our members now include computer engineers and curriculum developers.

What's next for the group?

Right now we want to keep attracting volunteers at GW and finding partners. We are also reaching out to local universities and those across the country who might be interested in starting a No Lost Generation chapter on their campus. The goal is to create a collegiate network where GW is a hub and to host a conference here. If you're in Iowa or California, the State Department is pretty far away. Since we have so many connections to federal agencies and organizations with national headquarters in D.C., a conference at GW would give others a more personal connection to people leading the response to the Syrian refugee crisis. We want to get as many people as possible working on this because there is so much potential and enthusiasm from everyone we've talked to.

— **Brittney Dunkins**

 For more on the student group, visit nlgoncampus.wordpress.com

**Norman Rockwell's
Seated Man in Interior,
from GW's permanent
collection, was last
on view in 1979.**

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Rockwell from the Vault

**Brady Art Gallery
exhibition showcases
little- or never-seen art
from GW's permanent
collection
//By Matthew Stoss**

On May 15, 1943, a fire claimed Norman Rockwell's Arlington, Vt., studio, destroying, among other things, a record of the nascency of his career.

Lost, experts think, were unseen works from 1930s, '20s and earlier, when Mr. Rockwell was still working out the iconic style that distilled Americana and for decades dominated advertising, Boy Scout calendars and *Saturday Evening Post* covers.

"He lost in that fire many, we believe, early paintings," says Stephanie Plunkett, the deputy director and chief curator of the Norman Rockwell Museum in Stockbridge, Mass. "An untold number of artworks painted in Rockwell's early style, as reflected in this piece, were likely lost."

There are surviving examples, though, and one currently is on



WILLIAM ATKINS

display in the Luther W. Brady Art Gallery.

The oil painting titled *Seated Man in Interior*—a rare unfinished study from the early 1930s—came out of storage after 37 years for “The Other 90%: Works from the GW Permanent Collection.”

The exhibition opened March 16 and highlights pieces from GW’s collection that haven’t been displayed in 20 years or more—ever. The show, which closes June 3, takes its name from a museum-industry convention.

“When you have a permanent collection, the museum can only show 2 percent to 20 percent of the collection at a time,” says Olivia Kohler-Maga, the Brady Gallery’s assistant director. “Most of it is in storage. So people usually say it’s about 10 percent on view; 90 percent is in storage.”

Ms. Kohler-Maga estimates that about 30 percent of GW’s permanent collection—which started in 1821, the same year the university was founded—is on view at any time and that about a quarter of it has never been seen.

The Rockwell painting is one of the highlights of “The Other 90%” show, which features 44 pieces and includes drawings by Ulysses S. Grant as well as works by Margaretta Peale and Thomas Sully. The last time GW displayed the Rockwell was in 1979 for a show in the former Dimock Gallery, a space now used for costume storage in Lisner’s basement.

GW acquired the painting in 1965 when Frank B. Hand Jr., BA ’36, JD ’38, a frequent-er of Greenwich Village art galleries, donated the piece at a time when universities were keen to start museums. Part of that boom, GW opened its first art gallery in 1966.

“I think the humanities were studied and more important back in that era,” says Lenore Miller, director of university art galleries and chief curator. “Art was booming, you know? It was becoming even more important. ... Also, I think you could acquire, relatively inexpensively, some important artists at that time.”

The Rockwell painting depicts model Fred Hildebrandt posed theatrically in a chair and holding a glass, a dog at his foot. Mr. Hildebrandt was a close friend of Mr. Rockwell and posed often for the prolific illustrator while they lived among an enclave of artists in bucolic New Rochelle, N.Y., 25 miles from New York City, in the 1920s and ’30s.

Linda Szekely Pero, a now-retired Rockwell Museum curator and the author of *American Chronicles: The Art of Norman Rockwell*,

suggested that *Seated Man in Interior* is a study for a potential beer advertisement, abandoned for unknown reasons. She recently dated the work to the early or mid-1930s, based on its similarity to another Rockwell work from that period: *Tides of Memory* (1936).

Ms. Plunkett says there is no record of *Seated Man in Interior* being tied to a known illustration or ad. The work, though, is unique because of the alla prima-like execution—which contrasts with the photographic realism of Mr. Rockwell’s later and more disseminated work.

Despite Mr. Rockwell’s great technical skill, contemporary critics sneered at his art and dismissed him as an illustrator who wasted his talent on propaganda and decried his point of view as cloying.

In the 1990s, though, critics began to see Mr. Rockwell, who died in 1978 at age 84, as a serious artist—and the marketplace did, too. In 2013, the painting *Saving Grace* sold for \$46 million at auction, surpassing the previous Rockwell auction record, set in 2006, by \$31 million.

Helping that reevaluation was a major touring exhibition that visited the Corcoran Gallery of Art in 2000.

“Norman Rockwell: Pictures for the American People” pushed the opinion that Mr. Rockwell deserves a better reputation.

“It renewed a lot of interest in Rockwell as an artist, not just as an illustrator,” Ms. Miller says. “Illustration is not the same as a painting. I mean, they’re kind of on two different planes. Sometimes they don’t mesh. Art historians might not have been studying Rockwell as avidly as another painter of that same time period.”

Ms. Plunkett, a lifelong proponent for illustration as high art, described *Seated Man in Interior* as a painterly work, praising its elegant lines and classical undertones. For her, it shows Mr. Rockwell’s “love of paint” and, more than that, it’s a peek inside Mr. Rockwell’s process and a chance to see his range as an artist.

“We don’t have many examples of those works, and I think it’s probably because they were burned in the fire,” Ms. Plunkett says. “So I think, for that reason, it’s unusual and wonderful to see—it’s beautiful to see.”

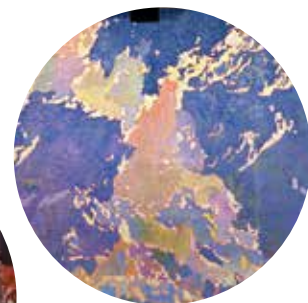
About 30 percent of GW’s permanent collection is on view at any time, and about a quarter of it has never been seen.

INSIDE GW'S ART COLLECTION

The GW Permanent Collection is as old as the university. (Both were founded in 1821.) Since, the collection has swelled to more than 4,000 pieces, including works by artists ranging from Andy Warhol to Ulysses S. Grant. Check out other highlights from the GW Permanent Collection below.



Gilbert Stuart
Monro-Lenox
Portrait of George Washington



Augustus Vincent Tack
Time and Timelessness
(Spirit of Creation)



Henry Bacon
The Boston Boys
and General Gage



Alma Thomas
Nature's Red Impressions



Alice Neel
The Family

 **For more Brady Gallery news, follow**
twitter.com/BradyGallery

HEADLINERS AT UNIVERSITY EVENTS

GEORGE WELCOMES

“The process of peace and pacification is a work that requires long breath, like a marathon.”

Catherine Samba-Panza, transitional president of the Central African Republic and just the third female head of state of an African country, speaking (through a translator) in March at Jack Morton Auditorium. Appointed to office in 2014, Ms. Samba-Panza built a transitional government through a still-flaring civil war and oversaw the election of a permanent parliament and president. She joked that it took a woman to make it happen.

Catherine Samba-Panza

“In Germany and in Europe, something is gaining momentum in our domestic politics—and to be honest, I am also seeing it here in the United States during the primary campaigns. It’s the politics of fear.”

German Foreign Minister **Frank-Walter Steinmeier**, during a speech in March at Jack Morton Auditorium in which he called on politicians not to turn inward and ignore issues outside their nation’s borders. “The world you live in is much too interconnected,” he said.

Frank-Walter Steinmeier

“Without even thinking, I blurted out, ‘Well, I’ve answered it to my satisfaction!’ So at least none of you did that.”

U.S. Supreme Court Justice **Samuel Alito**, getting a laugh in January as he recalled his response—back in his days as a law student—to a mock-trial judge who asked him the same question several times and insisted, “You haven’t answered the question to my satisfaction.” Justice Alito was on hand to judge the final round of GW Law School’s Van Vleck Constitutional Law Moot Court Competition. It was the seventh time in nine years that a justice from the high court has anchored the bench at the final.

Samuel Alito



“It made me want to be around others who were experiencing loss—and to be places where the pain I was feeling inside was matched by the pain outside.”

CNN host and journalist **Anderson Cooper**, at a Lisner Auditorium event in March in which he discussed his career and personal life with School of Media and Public Affairs Director Frank Sesno. Early in his career, Mr. Cooper said his desire to report from conflict zones was in part fueled by grief: the loss of his father when he was a child and, when he was 21, his older brother’s suicide. The event was part of SMPA’s silver anniversary celebrations and was co-sponsored by the student organization Allied in Pride.

“The reform movement says poverty is an excuse for failure. But poverty is also a root cause of failure for children growing up.”

Investigative journalist **Dale Russakoff**, during a Q&A about her new book, *The Prize: Who’s in Charge of America’s Schools?*, hosted by the Graduate School of Education and Human Development. The former *Washington Post* reporter spent four years chronicling an effort to transform the flagging Newark, N.J., public school system. The plan was ambitious, high profile—including a \$100 million donation from Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg—and, ultimately, flawed.

“If we do not crack encryption, our citizens who care so much about freedom and privacy will say, ‘What have we done to protect us, because these attacks will continue indefinitely.’ Then we will have other debates, much less healthy: What is a democracy worth if it’s not protecting us?”

French Interior Minister **Bernard Cazeneuve**, speaking at the Marvin Center in March. He said he supports the Obama administration’s effort to persuade Apple to unlock the iPhone of one of the San Bernadino terrorists and said the French government is waging a similar push regarding November’s Paris attacks.

Anderson Cooper

Dale Russakoff

Bernard Cazeneuve

SHOWCASING NEW BOOKS BY GW PROFESSORS AND ALUMNI

BOOKSHELVES



Stone: An Ecology of the Inhuman (University of Minnesota Press, 2015)
By Jeffrey Jerome Cohen

Between a Rock and a Soft Place

Expressions like “heart of stone” and “stone cold” suggest that living, breathing, feeling people share little with rocks. Humans are thought the stars, while stones are props—at times useful, photogenic and often confounding (e.g., stumbling blocks). In this book, **Jeffrey Jerome Cohen** explores how “human” stone can be.

/By Menachem Wecker, MA '09 /

In 2006, while finishing a book about race, GW English professor Jeffrey Jerome Cohen noticed how heavily anti-Semitism during medieval times relied upon geological terminology, for example, calling Jews “stone hearted.” That set off his active study of the subject, though he feels that his new book, *Stone: An Ecology of the Inhuman*, chose him, and that it did so years before he realized its grip.

“Maybe the book started earlier when my parents refused to buy me a Pet Rock, because they told me it wasn’t really alive,” he says. “I was one of those kids who returned from every trip to the beach with a pocket full of wave-smoothed pebbles.”

His scholarship came to focus on the ways that “time unfolds for humans at a much swifter tempo than it does for much of our planet.” He wondered whether earlier cultures entrusted their monuments to stone because they noticed it operated on a slower time. “They knew it would endure,” he says.

And then Dr. Cohen went on a family trip to the neolithic structure in Avebury, in England, not far from Stonehenge, and

he saw his children place their hands on the rocks. “Stories were being imparted by the encounter,” he says. The more he studied both medieval and contemporary texts, the more he realized that stone has worked so well for memorials not because it’s inanimate, but because it’s “lively.”

“We trust it to endure, to resonate with our history and narratives. Stone writes without words. It transmits. Medieval people knew this well,” he says. “So I delved into the origins of geology in medieval lapidaries as well as the use of gems in medicine and magic. Stone is a powerful, active substance.”

Dr. Cohen structured the book around anecdotes, many involving his family, offering a narrative navigation through a scholarly discussion of the topic. “I tried to craft the book so that it would be readable by anyone who is drawn to stone,” he says.

One eye-opening realization in Dr. Cohen’s research was the etymology of the word “calculus,” which comes from the Latin word for small stones used for counting. Across human history, stone has been mankind’s unwitting sidekick, serving as “windbreaks for fire, as axes for war or industry, as a substance for lasting art,” he writes. In every “rocky encounter,” stone wasn’t inert but proved its “ability to intensify our desires and possibilities.”

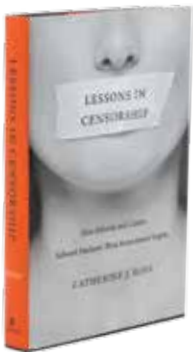


LOGAN WERLINGER



The Quotable Amelia Earhart
(University of New Mexico Press, 2015)
Edited by Michele Wehrwein
Albion, MA '91

Two things about Amelia Earhart are widely known: She was the first woman to fly solo over the Atlantic, and her plane later vanished over the Pacific in 1937. But she also was a “tireless advocate for women’s rights” and a “wise, well-spoken adventurer,” Ms. Albion writes. And in some of the quotations collected here, Ms. Earhart is both: “There is no cause inherent in her nature which would make a woman inferior to a man as an air pilot.”



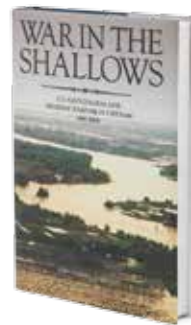
Lessons in Censorship: How Schools and Courts Subvert Students' First Amendment Rights (Harvard University Press, 2015)
Catherine J. Ross, professor of law

Penned for lay parents and constitutional law experts alike, this book opens with a high school official’s declaration—evocative of Dante’s “Abandon all hope” inscription above hell—that “You lose all constitutional rights once you enter a school building.” Dr. Ross calls the official’s position “as clueless as it was surreal,” but adds that laws governing school speech can confuse even judges. This book sets the historical and legal record straight.



A Poverty of Words
(Prolific Press, 2015)
Frederick Pollack, adjunct professor of creative writing

The publisher’s description of the author’s voice—belonging “to neither the navel-gazing mainstream nor the post-structuralist avant-garde”—aptly sets the tone for these 92 poems. One imagines a future, “politely annoyed” Buddha; another begins, “How often I’ve wanted to write something/ without symbols and with only the flimsiest/ metaphors. Then buses, pills, dogs and leaking/ pipelines would at last be themselves ...”



War in the Shallows: U.S. Navy Coastal and Riverine Warfare in Vietnam: 1965-1968 (Naval History and Heritage Command, 2015)
John Darrell Sherwood, MPhil '93, PhD '95

Dr. Sherwood, a Navy historian, zeroes in on a neglected aspect of the Vietnam War: Naval “brown water” (river) and “green water” (coastal) operations, as opposed to the “blue water” (oceanic) work more typical of the 20th century. At its height, the Navy’s river and coastal operations included more than 30,000 sailors and 350 vessels. “Vietnam was a decidedly low-tech, manpower intensive operation—an anathema to a Navy focused on fleet operations and cutting edge technology,” he writes.

“There is no cause inherent in her nature which would make a woman inferior to a man as an air pilot.”



The Last Summer at Chelsea Beach (Mira Books, 2015)
Pam Jenoff, BA '92

Drawing on her experiences working in Poland for the U.S. State Department, during which she aided the preservation of Auschwitz and the restitution of Polish Jewish property, Ms. Jenoff—a law professor at Rutgers University—tells in this novel the story of a young refugee. Adelia Montforte flees fascist Italy in 1941 and arrives in America worried that she is utterly alone. Even a stray dog sniffing at garbage “seemed to somehow know where it was going.” Her aunt and uncle surface, but as one might expect, acclimating into this new melting pot won’t be as easy as it seems.

SPORTS





ROWING

The GW Invitational: A Guide

The annual regatta is one of the premier rowing events on the East Coast. This is how it comes together.

The GW Invitational is one of the two biggest college rowing events on the East Coast—the Clemson Invitational is the other—and, anecdotally, the one with the best scenery.

“You can’t think of a non-championship collegiate race that has as many people there,” GW men’s rowing coach Mark Davis says of the event, which takes place in April. “There isn’t one.”

To set up, run and take down the GW Invitational—which draws about 1,000 people and includes the erecting of a 10-by-16-foot TV screen—it takes a crew of 50 to 75 people a day and a half to get the 1.25-mile, three-lane course along the Georgetown waterfront ready for two days of racing on the Potomac River.

After 28 years, it’s a certified to-do, attracting fans, parents and the odd passersby drawn by curiosity. The guy doing play-by-play through a loudspeaker aimed at M Street probably helps, too.

PERMIT US TO RACE

You don’t just go out on the Potomac and race 12 teams’ worth of nine-person, 200-foot boats 2,000 meters 56 times. This is Washington, and there is bureaucracy to abide. For the invitational to go on, it needs permits from the Thompson Boat Center, the National Park Service, the D.C. police and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Organizers also need to pay for marine patrol as well as NPS police and rangers.

A RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT (AND SOMETIMES OTHER BOATS)


The invitational can’t close the Potomac for the event. There’s too much traffic. So it shares. But there are still problems. If boats buzz the race at any faster than idle speed—about 5 mph—there are wakes that make it hard to row the low-sitting vessels. There are also tourists on stand-up paddleboards and rented kayaks who sometimes blunder into the race lanes. That happens about once a year. There haven’t been any collisions.

“You’re looking at a 200-foot boat,” GW women’s rowing coach Eric Carcich says. “With Mark’s guys, that’s probably 1,800 pounds in those boats, going 10 to 13 mph, barreling down with blades that are basically 12 feet extended on each side. It’s scary what could happen if there’s a stand-up paddle boat that gets swiped by one of these boats.”

SMOOTHER SAILING

April is a nice time to have the invitational because it means the Potomac is good for racing. And what makes a river good for racing? Tranquility and depth. Waves are bad, so is wind. Under 10 mph is ideal. Gusts over 20-25 mph will get a race canceled. Deep water also is preferable. Where the race happens, it’s about 25 feet deep. The Potomac can get as deep as 107 feet.

NAME DROPPING

It wasn’t always called the GW Invitational. In its 28 years, the event has gone through five names: GW Cherry Blossom Invitational Crew Classic (1988-89), GW Invitational Crew Classic (1990-2006), GW Invitational Regatta (2007-10) and GW Invitational/Potomac Challenge Cup (2011) before becoming the GW Invitational in 2012. 



BASEBALL

Eddie Muhl's Arms Race

The pitcher is one of the best closers in college baseball.

// By Matthew Stoss

On his way to being, statistically, one of the two best closers in college baseball last season, Eddie Muhl tried just about every arm slot available to a pitcher.

He eventually settled on a trebuchet-like, three-quarters sidearm delivery, and with that, the 6-foot-4, 225-pound GW right-hander tied Radford University's Ryan Meisinger for the most saves (17) in Division I in 2015.

It's the result of a six-year trek of discovery that tested his patience and the elasticity of his rotator cuff. Mr. Muhl threw overhand and submarine and came out at every delivery in between, looking for a release that he could make his own.

For Mr. Muhl, a contemplative junior from suburban Los Angeles, the best way to explain how he persevered is with an analogy. A guitarist—he favors a cherry-red Epiphone Dot—he says that his search for a pitching style is not unlike a musician's search for a sound.

"If you do every throwing drill and every exercise and everything perfectly, you might pitch really well and you might pitch right and you might get people out," says Mr. Muhl, who digs classic rock and quotes Jack Kerouac. "But I think you have to really grasp the essence and move forward with that, through your own interpretation. And I think that's why things like blues and all that are so beautiful, because you can have Jimi Hendrix and Stevie Ray Vaughan, and you can tell which one's which. They put their mark on it and they kind of change it for themselves, and it's

the same thing about pitching."

Last season, as a sophomore, Mr. Muhl had a 2.13 ERA, striking out 20 batters and walking just six in 24 $\frac{1}{3}$ innings. He gave up 22 hits, just four of which were for extra bases. He didn't allow a home run.

Mr. Muhl relies not only on his deceptive arm slot—it hides the ball during his windup, making it harder for batters to see the ball early—but also on superlative location and lots of natural movement.

No pitch in the junior's arsenal—change-up, slider and an 89-mph two-seam fastball—goes anywhere close to straight, and when he first found what would become his arm slot, his pitches moved so much that he had to shift where he stood on the mound.

During a spring intrasquad scrimmage three years ago, GW coach Gregg Ritchie, BA '86, suggested that Mr. Muhl throw sidearm. The then-freshman did, and promptly hit three batters. In a row. Mr. Ritchie's reaction was ... unexpected.

"He was happy," Mr. Muhl says with a laugh. "I remember this very clearly: He came out and talked to me and he asked, 'Do you know what you're doing wrong right now?' And I said, 'Of course not. I have no idea what I'm doing wrong.' And he moved me over from the right side—the third-base side of the rubber—to the middle and he said, 'Just keep doing what you're doing.' And I went back up there, and, all of a sudden, the ball started to drop right in on the inside corner."

The change has helped Mr. Muhl go from a high school player whose next-best offer was a Division III school to one of the top relief pitchers in college baseball. And as he's picked up more velocity on his fastball, Mr. Muhl has moved his arm slot incrementally higher to get to where it is now.

Mr. Muhl also experimented with different releases in high school while playing for the powerhouse program at Notre Dame in Sherman Oaks, Calif., of which Florida Marlins all-star outfielder Giancarlo Stanton is an alum.

Notre Dame coach Tom Dill says Mr. Muhl, who didn't pitch until high school, could always locate his pitches, regardless of how he threw them.

"He always gave you a shot because he pounded the [strike] zone," says Mr. Dill, in his 25th season coaching the Knights. "As he got older, he developed more pitches, and when you talk about arm slot, he could throw over the top, he could throw three-quarters and he could throw from the side—and he could mix that up."

And he still can. He just doesn't have to. **EW**

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IN ADDITION

NOVELIST **THOMAS MALLON** IMAGINES WHAT LIES BETWEEN THE FACTS
IN THE LIVES OF PRESIDENTS AND THOSE AROUND THEM
STORY BY MATTHEW STOSS // ILLUSTRATIONS BY MICHAEL HOEWELER

TO HISTORY

MICHAEL HOEWELER

he best part about Thomas Mallon's 2009 takedown of Ayn Rand—a delicate evisceration, massaged over 4,226 words in a November edition of *The New Yorker* and executed with the precision of a GPS-enabled scalpel—is how much he earned it. The dear man forfeited a summer to endure all 9 billion pages (approximately) of *The Fountainhead* and *Atlas Shrugged*, and other Randian writings, as well, in the holy name of preparation.

Dr. Mallon is nothing if not a thorough man, tidy and prone to cardigans, cleanliness and teal-striped socks. A registered (but wholly disenchanting) Republican, the 64-year-old gets his hair cut for \$26 at the Watergate barbershop, because, well, if it's good enough for Bob Dole, he says, it's good enough for him. It's also a short walk—he might ride his Marin bicycle if it was much farther—from his sixth-floor Phillips Hall office in Foggy Bottom, where he's been an English professor and Rate My Professor darling since 2007.

Students vouch, with an average of 4.8 stars out of 5, for his charm, his wit, his helpfulness, his clarity. They testify, as even Ms. Rand might, if she were still alive, to his dedication to knowing as much stuff as possible, and then, if there's time, a little more. An essayist, a critic and a well-lauded novelist, Dr. Mallon—who got his PhD in English and American literature from Harvard University in 1978—researches hard and at length, which is how he came to write about Ms. Rand, her philosophy of Objectivism and what she watched on TV.

Before that *New Yorker* piece, Dr. Mallon hadn't had more than a casual brush with Ayn Rand. He might have been among that group that, as he wrote seven years ago, made “their first and last trip to Galt's Gulch ... sometime between leaving Middle-earth and packing for college.” And he went back only because *The New Yorker* paid him to write about two Rand biographies: *Ayn Rand and the World She Made*, by Anne C. Heller, and *Goddess of the Market: Ayn Rand and the American Right*, by Jennifer Burns.

Dr. Mallon, though, went into the dark beyond the biographies, also trudging—uphill (both ways), barefoot, in the snow—through Ms. Rand's novels, *We the Living*, *The Fountainhead* and *Atlas Shrugged*, and Ms. Rand's nonfiction, *The Romantic Manifesto: A Philosophy of Literature* and *The Art of Fiction: A Guide for Writers and Readers*. Dr. Mallon whittled from a block of Randian ironwood an essay that went deep on her Russian roots and a screenwriting dalliance in Hollywood. Dr. Mallon dug into Ms. Rand's personal life, her political influence and her cult of votaries. He even mined Ms. Rand's

Charlie's Angels fandom for a mordant crack about Objectivism.

In total, Dr. Mallon persevered through more than 3,500 pages of Ayn Rand and Ayn Rand scholarship to craft a review-essay on two biographies, to establish gravitas and earn these delicious cuts: Ms. Rand's “intellectual genre fiction puts her in the crackpot pantheon of L. Frank Baum and L. Ron Hubbard,” “the novel's dialogue is never even accidentally plausible” and “the books would have been no more concise and no less clumsy had she written them in Russian.”

Ariel Gonzalez—an English professor at Miami Dade College and NPR host who has reviewed books for *The Washington Post* and *The Miami Herald*—described Dr. Mallon as one of the “best book critics” in the country because, while Dr. Mallon may not celebrate an author's catalog, he will most certainly read it, even if it's “so bad,” Dr. Mallon says, it “just makes my head explode.”

“He writes comprehensive essay-reviews on someone,” Mr. Gonzalez says. “That's something a lot of critics won't do. He takes the author seriously. So even if he's criticizing you—even if he's attacking you—you should at least be happy with the fact that he's paid so much attention to your work.”

That is what he did for 4,226 words on two Ayn Rand biographies. Now, consider what he might do for his own books.

THOMAS MALLON PULLED,

from the fluorescent hammerspace of his corner office, the first four pages of *Landfall*, his novel about President George W. Bush. Dr. Mallon's 10th novel, it's scheduled for a 2018 release and with a chunk of it set during Hurricane Katrina. *Landfall* is the final book of the “trilogy” he never meant to write, but Pantheon Books, his publisher since 1997, and his agent suggested he postpone a novel centering on Fort Sumter during the Civil War—tentatively titled *The Late Unpleasantness*—to first novelize Bush the Younger.

The “trilogy”—Dr. Mallon didn't name it that but he likes to use the term ironically—covers the major Republican presidents from the last third of the 20th century and the forward tip of the 21st. The series started with Richard Nixon and the PEN/Faulkner-nominated *Watergate* in 2012, then Ronald Reagan and the well-received *Finale: A Novel of the Reagan Years* in 2015, and now, W. and *Landfall*.

“You are the first person to read that, besides me,” says Dr. Mallon, handing over the pages. “It was only written in the last couple of days.”

It's January and the air is gloomy. The pages are handwritten front and back in blue roller-ball ink, ripped primly from legal pads

he buys in quantity. Dr. Mallon's handwriting is small, more print than cursive—but occasionally the two modes do commingle—the letters snuggled. No one would teach children to write this way. There are big spaces between the words and he writes on every other line to leave optimum room for editing, which is where Dr. Mallon does his hardest work.

There's nothing spontaneous about Dr. Mallon's process, no word-magic, no jazz, and if there's a stream of consciousness, it's been dammed. He would never self-oblige himself an artist—how gauche—and it's still modestly that he marks “writer” on his W-2.

“I said once in an interview, and I got in trouble for it—it was thrown back in my face by a critic, later, who didn't like something I'd written,” Dr. Mallon says, hesitantly. “I once said that I never think of myself as an artist; I think of myself as a craftsman.”

He thinks for a moment, an Orwellian Barry Goldwater campaign poster staring down his back from the skinny far wall of his office.

“I suppose I am an artist if I've written all these novels and they've been taken pretty seriously and so forth,” says Dr. Mallon, whose mastery of historical fiction has been compared to that of Gore Vidal, with whom Dr. Mallon worked as an editor at *GQ* in the early 1990s.

Dr. Mallon even modeled *Finale* on Mr. Vidal's *Lincoln*. In both novels, neither Reagan nor Lincoln are point-of-view characters. Instead, they're observed Guildenstern and Rosencrantz-style by the people in the near periphery—William Seward and Nancy Reagan. She, along with Richard Nixon and Christopher Hitchens (a real-life friend of Dr. Mallon's), are the stars of *Finale*.

“I think of them as being more like carpentry or architecture, actually,” Dr. Mallon says of his novels. “Obviously, they've got an inventive element to them, so there's the architectural aspect to them, but maybe it's just because I enjoy it more—the carpentry of them, the rewriting of them.”

“I don't know why, this interviewer—this was quite a long time ago—he seemed repelled by the notion that a literary novelist wouldn't think of himself as an artist. Who confers that title on himself? *I'm an artist*. I can remember the point in my life when, after a couple of books, I could actually—when people asked me what I did—I'd say I'm a

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writer, even though ... I was a working college professor, like I am now. And I thought, 'I'm entitled to that—I'm entitled to that self-description.' ... I take 'writer' as my primary identity, and that I'm willing to claim. Artist is maybe a bridge too far.”

There would be more boxes in Dr. Mallon's office but he's just moved in from across the sixth-floor elevator bank and a lot of his stuff hasn't made the trip. He's also been shipping the accumulated clutter of a book-writing career that started at age 31 to Brown University, which, since 1991, has been compiling a Mallon archive that now fills 16 boxes and spans 15 linear feet in the key-swipe-secured back stacks of the John Hay Library.

Christopher Geissler, the director of the library and its special collections, says manuscripts—for Dr. Mallon's novels, there can be as many as five drafts—make up the bulk of the archive, starting with Dr. Mallon's first major book, *A Book of One's Own: People and Their Diaries*, which was published in 1984.

The library's back stacks cover eight floors, plus an off-campus annex, and the collections of some authors fill as many

as 50 boxes, depending on what's included and its completeness. Material can range from manuscripts to correspondence to writings from an author's youth—their juvenilia. In terms of manuscripts, Mr. Geissler says, the collection of Dr. Mallon—who got his undergraduate degree at Brown in 1973—is “remarkably complete,” thanks in part perhaps to what Dr. Mallon described as his “archivist's temperament.” He keeps everything.

Work on Dr. Mallon's collection began in 1991 when he and the library's former director, Sam Streit, started corresponding after Mr. Streit, a heavyweight in the field who's responsible for building much of the Brown library's author archives, showed interest in the writer from Long Island's Nassau County.

In Dr. Mallon's GW office, the storage space consists of a three-drawer filing cabinet and a few boxes, none of it overly secure. But the boxes, the cabinet, even the nooks of his desk, are chubby with ephemera. There are three-ring binders, manila folders, phonebook-fat stacks of paper—the stuff of Dr. Mallon's most recent drafts and research.

For one novel, *Two Moons*, he read a whole year (1877) of a defunct Washington, D.C., newspaper, *The Washington Evening Star*, printing relevant bits from microfilm to annotate and highlight. For *Finale*, he took a plane to Reykjavik one mid-October, just so he could be there the same time of year that Mr. Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev had their summit on nuclear disarmament in that big white house. Dr. Mallon went to the big white house, too, learning, among other things, that Mr. Gorbachev's security detail passed their time by watching Tom and Jerry cartoons in the basement.

Also in those boxes, cabinet drawers and desk nooks are his outlines. Human DNA has been mapped less precisely.

Dr. Mallon plans in “micro” and “macro” outlines. The micro versions are written by hand, chapter by chapter and sentence by sentence, in tiny letters, copied from a slaughtered forest's worth of to-be trashed pages. This outline is so final that it might as well be writ on diamond tablets handed down through sky-fire on Mount Sinai. The macro map, which he keeps in his computer,

is more fluid. That's where Mr. Hitchens, not included in the early *Finale* plans and whom Dr. Mallon first met at a *GQ* party in Washington in the late '90s, snuck in. Dr. Mallon says he needed a Greek chorus character, someone like Alice Roosevelt Longworth in *Watergate*, who could do play-by-play and be funny about it.

The micro outline for the *Landfall* prologue alone is eight double-columned pages and gets as specific as "Bush waves." From the micro outline, Dr. Mallon handwrites a first draft—he says the micro outline is so detailed that this part is "almost rewriting"—which he then marks over with pencil before typing. Draft 2 is printed and marked in pen. So is Draft 3. Draft 4 is a full-on edit of a finished manuscript. It's the same procedure for a novel, for an essay, for a review, for anything he writes that isn't his morning diary entry.

"I still don't like writing," Dr. Mallon says. There's always a Starbucks to-go cup on his desk. There's one there now. "I find writing difficult because there's still, with all that planning, even with all the outlining, there's still a certain fear of the blank page—that I'm not gonna be able to come up with that first draft.

"But I love rewriting because once I have something done, it may not be very good, but I can always make it better—I can make it measurably better. To me, the real stuff is in the revisions. ... If I can balance the self-loathing with a bit of self-flattery, I know what I'm doing when it comes to it."

IDEALLY, THOMAS MALLON

says, he would write the way Rosemary Clooney sings—at least he'd write in the style, of his interpretation, of the way Rosemary Clooney sings. To Dr. Mallon, Ms. Clooney is all intellect and vocal tautness, pared lean of aural fat to a mellifluous BMI. To his ear, she sings with a sureness of voice, of delivery, of elocution. She sings *ex cathedra*, and Dr. Mallon wants a drop of that lyrical infallibility.

Still, being a specific man, Dr. Mallon is specific about the Rosemary Clooney he wants to channel, and, for him, there are two incarnations. First, there is the Rosemary Clooney of *White Christmas* and of her first hit, "Come On-a My House," a jaunty song with a vaguely wicked feel and words that are both benign and suggestive at the same time.

This is not Thomas Mallon's "Rosie."

"Rosemary Clooney's probably my absolute favorite singer," Dr. Mallon says. "When she was young, she was this very pretty, perky pop singer who sang a lot of these novelty songs, a lot of junk, even. She wanted to be a much more serious singer—a jazz singer and a much more complicated practitioner of American standards. She really had two

careers. She disappeared for a while, she had a lot of personal troubles and then she came back toward the end of her life and she made a whole huge series of albums with the Concord Jazz Quartet. They're fantastic."

That's his Rosie.

"She had such an intelligent delivery of lyrics," says Dr. Mallon, who wanted to do a magazine profile on Ms. Clooney, but nothing ever came of it. She died in 2002 at age 74. "She never gets in the way of the lyrics. She knows exactly how every word should fall. It's very simple and elegant."

While elegant, Dr. Mallon's style isn't succinct. There are clauses and parentheticals, reiterations and reestablishings. It's all well-crafted, but to Dr. Mallon, it's just not in Ms. Clooney's spirit of essential leanness. Her style, he says, has been elusive, and it's when he's listening to her—say, to the matured concision and clear consonants on 1983's aspirational "My Shining Hour"—that Dr. Mallon considers his limits and that maybe his strength is also his weakness: thoroughness and information.

"I think my writing has too many bells and whistles," he says. "Too many parentheses, too many flourishes—not so much stylistic flourishes, but there's too much stuff."

The line here is fine. The issue is balance and the ability to get out of one's own way and not muscle up on a strength. →



"Rosemary Clooney's probably my absolute favorite singer..."



Hear a

SPOTIFY PLAYLIST

*made by Thomas Mallon,
inspired by Rosie.*

go.gwu.edu/MallonPlaylist

DRAFT 1

Part 1 — August 19, 1986 — Oct. 6, 1986

Chapter 1 — August 19, 1986

Nancy heard five revs of the chain saw, his signature warm-up. And so, even before the teeth could bite into the madrone's trunk, she knew that it was Ronnie, not Barney Barnett, out there with him, felling this particular dead tree. In no time at all he would clear a dozen more from the property. Chopping them down remained his favorite form of exercise here at the ranch, except perhaps for fixing fences.

She liked the sound of the saw, found it as soothing as Ronnie found the company of Barney, the California highway patrolman who'd been his driver during their years in Sacramento. The end results of the sawing also pleased her: the neatening up of the grounds; the way the saw left the healthy trees standing, just as Dr. Davis, her surgeon father, left the good matter intact after cutting away the bad.

Today's Washington Post had already arrived, brought up the little mountain by the government car that delivered the documents and the letters from ordinary people, a sampling of which Ronnie, still the softest touch, insisted upon seeing, even while he was here on vacation. The correspondence he keeps up with two old maids who send him presents! The newspaper rests, with a stack of magazines, atop a pool table not far from the couch that she's sitting on. The house is so small there isn't even a proper rack for the periodicals. When visitors see how modest the place is—nothing but two little fireplaces to heat it—they always express surprise, intending a compliment that comes out as an insult, as if they're really saying

Ronnie found the company of Barney, the California highway patrolman who'd been his driver during their years in Sacramento. The end results of the sawing also pleased her: the neatening up of the grounds; the way the saw left the healthy trees standing, just as Dr. Davis, her surgeon father, left the good matter intact after cutting away the bad.

The first draft of anything Thomas Mallon writes is always handwritten. He favors a Mont Blanc pen and blue ink.

A NOVEL PROCESS

A DRAFT-BY-DRAFT LOOK AT THOMAS MALLON'S LATEST NOVEL, *FINALE: A NOVEL OF THE REAGAN YEARS*

CHAPTER 1
August 19, 1986

Draft #2
- changes put in date -
8/24/16

Nancy heard five revs of the chain saw, his signature warm-up. And so, even before the teeth could bite into the madrone's trunk, she knew that it was Ronnie, not Barney Barnett, out there with him, felling this particular dead tree. In no time at all he would clear a dozen more from the property. Chopping them down remained his favorite form of exercise here at the ranch, except perhaps for fixing fences.

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DRAFT 2

Dr. Mallon's second drafts are the first to be typed. He's not particular about fonts. Here, he used 12-point Cambria. He makes edits with the Mont Blanc.

DRAFT 2A

CHAPTER 1
August 19, 1986

2A
Draft #2

Nancy heard five revs of the chain saw, his signature warm-up. And so, even before the tool could bite into the madrone's trunk, she knew that it was Ronnie, not Barney Barnett, out there with him—felling this particular dead tree. In no time at all he would clear a dozen more from the property. Chopping them down remained his favorite form of exercise here at the ranch, except perhaps for fixing fences.

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← CHAPTER 1

← August 19, 1986

32 45
Draft #3
✓ changes put on disk, 2/12/19

Through the open window Nancy heard five revs of the chain saw, his signature warm-up. ~~And so~~ ^{and} even before the tool could bite into the madrone's trunk, she knew that it had to be Ronnie—not Barney Barnett, out there with him—~~who was~~ ^{making noise} felling this particular dead tree. In no time at all he would clear a dozen more from the property. Chopping them down remained his favorite form of exercise here at the ranch.

She liked the sound of the saw, found it as soothing as Ronnie found the company of Barney, the California highway patrolman who'd been his driver during their years in Sacramento. The ~~end results of the sawing~~ ^{neatened-up grounds always} pleased her: the ~~neatening up of the grounds~~ ^{would leave} the way the saw left the healthy trees standing, just as Dr. Davis, her surgeon father, ~~had left~~ ^{would leave} the good matter intact after cutting away the bad.

Today's *Washington Post* had already arrived, brought up the mountain by the government car that delivered the documents and the letters from ordinary people, a sampling of which Ronnie, still the softest touch, insisted upon seeing, even while here on vacation. [The correspondence he keeps up with those two old maids who send him presents!] The newspaper ~~rests~~ ^{now} with a stack of ~~magazines~~ ^{others} atop a pool table not far from the couch she's sitting on. The house is so small there isn't even a proper rack for ~~periodicals~~ ^{magazines}. When visitors see how modest the ~~place is~~ ^{space}—nothing but two little fireplaces to heat it—they always express surprise, intending

DRAFT 4

CHAPTER 1

August 19, 1986

✓ changes put on disk, 2/12/19

Through the open window Nancy heard five revs of the chain saw, his signature warm-up. Even before the tool could bite into the madrone's trunk, she knew that it had to be Ronnie—not Barney Barnett, out there with him—who was felling this particular dead tree. In no time at all he would clear ~~a dozen~~ ^{half a dozen} more from the property. Chopping them down remained his favorite form of exercise here at the ranch.

She liked the sound of the saw, found it as soothing as Ronnie found the company of Barney, the California highway patrolman who'd been his driver during their years in Sacramento. The ~~neatened-up grounds~~ ^{neatened-up grounds} always pleased her: the way the saw left the healthy trees standing, just as Dr. Davis, her surgeon father, would leave the good matter intact after cutting away the bad.

Today's *Washington Post* had already arrived, brought up the mountain by the government car that delivered the documents and the letters from ordinary people, a sampling of which Ronnie, still the softest touch, insisted upon seeing, even while here on vacation. [The correspondence he keeps up with those two old maids who send him presents!] The newspaper now rests, with a stack of others, atop a pool table not far from the couch she's sitting on. The house is so small there isn't even a proper rack for magazines. When visitors see how modest the space is—nothing but two little fireplaces to heat it—they always express surprise, intending a compliment (*it's so down to earth!*) that somehow comes out as an insult, as if

DRAFT 3

Dr. Mallon goes through each draft line by line, printing each iteration in full and making changes in a Word document.

This is the last step before the novel's sent the publisher, although Dr. Mallon's editor typically gets his first peek at the manuscript when it's 50 percent done.

→ Ms. Clooney's singing serves, it seems, as the bumper on Dr. Mallon's authorial bowling alley, bouncing him back to the arrows when he slips to the gutter. He may not be Ms. Clooney's avatar, but she can at least be his compass.

Ariel Gonzalez, the professor and book critic, and Dan Frank, Dr. Mallon's editor of more than 20 years at Pantheon, agree that Dr. Mallon's novels can sometimes get snagged by too much planning, too much exposition. Mr. Gonzalez says that Dr. Mallon's characters can be too meticulous and jokes about his urge to "mess up their hair." Yet, the men say, it's a minor quibble—every writer must balance their strengths (Dr. Mallon often talks about the "tradeoffs" in writing)—because it's Dr. Mallon's attention to a thickness of "stuff" that cuts his niche in contemporary fiction.

Mr. Gonzalez met Dr. Mallon in 2001 at the Bread Loaf Writers Conference in Middlebury, Vt., where he did a workshop with Dr. Mallon that compelled him to read the author's work. Since, Mr. Gonzalez has interviewed him on WLRN-FM, Miami's NPR station, and positively reviewed several of Dr. Mallon's books for *The Miami Herald*, most recently *Finale*, praising Dr. Mallon's prose and his ability to cull heart from the gray space between history's facts.

The parts that Dr. Mallon seems to see as irreducibly complex in his writing, Mr. Gonzalez sees as welcome infrastructure, an effort to write good sentences and a dedication to incisive, cinematic scenes. Even Mr. Frank says that Dr. Mallon is a "clean edit," capable of great detail and wit.

Mr. Gonzalez wrote in his review of *Finale*, the Reagan-centered book, that Dr. Mallon is "truly incapable of writing a bad sentence" and that one of the novel's "many joys" is the "beauty and elegance" of the prose, which, in an interview this winter, Mr. Gonzalez described as "classically cool" and "refreshingly old-fashioned."

"I'd rather have his very well-detailed, formally structured novels than a lot of the rambling first-person monstrosities that we see today," Mr. Gonzalez says.

Dr. Mallon doesn't push boundaries or press hot buttons. He sticks to linear plots while avoiding the first person. It

is, Mr. Gonzalez says, writing excised of "pyrotechnics."

"His writing style is extremely refined but not in an unapproachable way," Mr. Gonzalez says. "Anyone can read Tom's prose. ... It's very accessible in the sense that you can understand it if you want [and] every sentence really dazzles because of its crystalline nature. By that I mean his writing style is almost flawless. If you read his essays, if you read a page from his novels, you can see how meticulously crafted his prose is, and that also is very refreshing because sometimes there is too much sloppiness going on in today's fiction. He just doesn't jump on any bandwagons. He doesn't want to follow any bigger trend. He has a chosen path for himself and he's sticking to it."

Dr. Mallon, with a laugh, just calls it his "narrow talent." And while, to him, his writing may not be as trim as Rosie's singing, his fat is, at least, essential.

her Kennedy Center Honors in 1986 instead of 1987, just so she could play foil to Ronald Reagan, a former actor with whom she starred in *Dark Victory* in 1939.

It's a venial sin—especially compared to inventing an extramarital affair for Pat Nixon in *Watergate*—that still tweaks Dr. Mallon, who included Ms. Davis for her political affiliation (Democrat) and her entertainment value. He just asks that people not read his novels near the Internet.

Overwhelmingly, though, Dr. Mallon is offering *what happened in addition to* and not *what happened instead of*. He pokes around in history that's gone dark or never saw light, and he's proposing what might have been, even though that often means going inside a real person's mind. That, Dr. Mallon says, is the "huge license" he takes.

"Do I really know that Nancy Reagan and Ronald Reagan related to each other in the way that I have them doing?" he says. "It's not



MALLON'S NOVELS



1988
Arts and Sciences

1991
Aurora 7



1994
Henry and Clara

1997
Dewey Defeats Truman



GORE VIDAL IN 1987 described history as the "agreed-upon facts," and, like Mr. Vidal, Thomas Mallon plays in the fissures between them, but carefully. Dr. Mallon sidles a threshold of plausibility, wielding his poetic license with tweezers, forceps and a large bottle of iodine. He's not offering alternate history, although he will commit the occasional fudging. His primary objective is to entertain and tell a good story, but he won't change a major agreed-upon fact, like the winner of an election, to do it.

His most egregious fudging in *Finale* is having Bette Davis get

tampering with verifiable facts, like date and location, but it's a huge tampering with reality because it's an invention. I don't really know, but it's plausible."

Plausibility is the keystone of the conceit. In *Landfall*, like in *Finale*, in *Watergate*, in *Dewey Defeats Truman*, in *Henry and Clara*—all linked in a Mallonverse continuity—the historical figures will act as it seems to us they would, giving Dr. Mallon the cover he needs to stick in the odd fictional character, like the you'd-never-know-if-you-didn't-Google Anders Little in *Finale*. Thomas Mallon won't have George W. Bush slaying vampires. He practices fidelity to history and fidelity to the voices of history's figures.

A gifted mimic, Dr. Mallon eases conversationally in and out of impressions. At a lecture in February, Dr. Mallon went from Reagan to

Human DNA has been mapped less precisely.

Donald Trump to Nixon to Merv Griffin and back to Reagan. To do Trump, he blusters hot air and bellows. For his Nixon, he hunches his shoulders and summons all the gruff and jowl he can. His Reagan sounds like James Mason dazed on nitrous oxide, which makes you realize that's actually kind of what Reagan sounded like. He's still working up his Bernie Sanders.

Before writing dialogue, Dr. Mallon speaks it out loud, muttering with what Dan Frank, Dr. Mallon's longtime editor, calls the author's "ventriloquist gift" and doing voices to himself in a dry run of plausibility. He's exploring what he describes as a "certain conscious empathy" that's part of making himself more completely the person he's writing.

Dr. Mallon wouldn't disagree that so far he's been most comfortable in Richard Nixon's head. He also knows when to inhabit a historical figure and when to cave to their inscrutability. Ronald Reagan was too

Yorker that year, John Updike wrote about the novel—which follows the real-life couple seated next to Abraham Lincoln on the night of his assassination—and Dr. Mallon's work to that point, calling Dr. Mallon "one of the most interesting American novelists at work," in the penultimate sentence of an adoring review. *Henry and Clara* also helped bring Dr. Mallon to Pantheon from Ticknor & Fields, uniting Dr. Mallon and Mr. Frank, who met over lunch, or a drink, maybe both—Mr. Frank doesn't remember exactly—in New York some time in the mid-1990s when Dr. Mallon was still working as the literary editor at *GQ*.

Dr. Mallon says his interest in historical fiction started with an elementary school reading of *Men of Iron* by Howard Pyle. He followed that with a novel by Elizabeth George Speare called *Calico Captive*, which is set during the French and Indian War. It's the first book that made him cry. That was around

his first novel, titled *Impeachment*. He made it through about a hundred pages—his "patient" father was the only other person to read them—before aborting and making his first go at keeping a diary. He would journal off and on until his first year of grad school—an anxious, unhappy, confused and overworked time in his life—when he took up the habit full time, writing a few hundred words every morning about the day before.

Dr. Mallon says he owes his writing career to his diaries, which may or may not end up in his collection at Brown—"I don't think I've had an interesting enough career for a biographer ever to be interested in it"—because, he says, diaries taught him the tightness of narrative that defines, and occasionally hampers, his novels.

Back in his office in January, Dr. Mallon's talking about Dawn Powell and the danger of "emptying your notebook." He's working on an essay about Ms. Powell, a lit-



2000

Two Moons

2004
Bandbox



2007

Fellow Travelers

2012

Watergate



2015

Finale: A Novel of the Reagan Years

opaque, so Dr. Mallon punted, as Mr. Vidal did on Abraham Lincoln. Dr. Mallon, as of January 2016, says he plans to go inside the head of W. for *Landfall*. But if he can't find Mr. Bush's voice somewhere in the blue ink of his Mont Blanc pen—a gift from astronaut Scott Carpenter after Dr. Mallon helped him with his memoirs—he can always find someone else's.

"He does wonders with Nancy Reagan, so that's sort of fantastic," Mr. Frank says. "He uses her to project an understanding of Reagan, and for him to suggest that, even to Nancy, Ronald Reagan remained an enigma is sort of fabulous. It humanizes Nancy and at the same time it gives you an insight into just how enigmatic Reagan himself was."

Henry and Clara came out in 1994. Mr. Frank considers it the novel that made Dr. Mallon. In a September issue of *The New*

the fifth grade, a year after he told his classmates from behind a "Vote Nixon" button that they had achieved previously unknown levels of wrong for supporting John F. Kennedy in the 1960 presidential election. Dr. Mallon, then 9 years old and parroting his father's unconditional support of Richard Nixon, reasoned that Mr. Nixon was the correct choice to succeed President Eisenhower because he'd been vice president for eight years and Mr. Kennedy was just a lowly senator. It was an adroit argument, for a 9-year-old.

"It just seemed logical to me," Dr. Mallon says.

He can still name the members of Mr. Nixon's cabinet.

Five years later, at age 14, Dr. Mallon's interest in politics and historical fiction intersected for the first time, when he attempted

the-known American writer whose acclaim came postmortem, for *The New York Times Book Review*. "Emptying your notebook" is when a writer uses every bit of research they have in an often vain attempt to show the reader just how much stuff they know. This, Dr. Mallon admits, is especially dangerous to him.

From there, he segues into how he balances planning and future inspiration, consulting a Powell anthology that seems sturdy enough to throw through the glass of a submarine porthole. He's looking for a Powell quote to explain all this and can't find the page. After a few seconds of futile searching, something occurs to him and he stops, shifting to the papers underneath the brick-shaped anthology.

"I bet I can find it on my outline." **GM**



BALANCING THE BOOKS

STORY **JULYSSA LOPEZ** PHOTOS **LOGAN WERLINGER**



At Smart from the Start, in Southeast D.C.'s Woodland neighborhood, 2-year-old Blake Augburn—a fixture at the early-learning center—sits down with a book.

Alumna **Kyle Zimmer's** nonprofit, First Book, is pooling the buying power of educators and families in need to change the face of—and the access to—children's publishing.

The two-floor apartment in Woodland is loaded with crates of glossy new children's books.

Books are a rarity in this Southeast D.C. neighborhood. Woodland is located in one of the city's poorest and least-developed wards. The neighborhood is small, home to about only 600 people, nearly all African American. Crime and gang violence are frequent here—last summer, police flooded the streets after the community witnessed three shootings in just 10 days.

Cherie Craft is straightening up the piles of hardcovers. She came to Woodland two years ago to open an outpost of Smart from the Start, a community organization that started in Boston to encourage early learning for children growing up in low-income communities. The kids in Woodland know that they can get free books through her—they constantly poke their heads into the blue mailbox outside to see if she has slipped in any new volumes.

Today, she has about 100 copies of Raquel Jaramillo's award-winning *Wonder* and Disney's bubble gum-pink *P Is for Princess*, among others. The stacks of books could fill a small library.

"Look at this," Ms. Craft says, flipping over a book in her hands and pointing to the \$12.99 price on the back. "We would never, ever be able to afford this."

She doesn't have to—a Washington organization called First Book, co-founded and run by Kyle Zimmer, JD '87, stocks schools, caregivers and community programs like Ms. Craft's with free and low-cost books; 140 million of them, actually, and counting.

Ms. Craft is particularly excited this afternoon because First Book shipped over Jean Reagan's *How to Surprise a Dad*. She says it's a favorite among the young fathers in Woodland, who come to Smart from the Start for parenting workshops.

"First Book knows exactly the kinds of books we like," she says. "To read a book about a dad playing and doing things with his kids makes a huge difference around here."

As she's speaking, 2-year-old Blake Augburn bounds into the room with the self-assuredness of a Fortune 100 CEO—like he owns the place.

"He *does* own the place," Ms. Craft laughs.

Blake has been coming to Smart from the Start with his parents since he was a newborn. Blake's father, Ed, is one of the young dads Ms. Craft works with, and one of the first people she connected with when the center opened.

In the corner of the room, a rocking horse waits for Blake to hop on for a ride. Blake approaches the candy-colored steed, plays equestrian for about 10 seconds and then abruptly dismounts. He runs to the table where Ms. Craft put down a copy of *How to Surprise a Dad*.

“Book!” he shouts.

He reaches for it and thumbs through pages of illustrations by Lee Wildish, which tell the story of two African American kids.

“Who’s that?” Ms. Craft says, pointing at the little boy in the book.

“Me,” Blake replies.

“What about that?” she asks, pointing to the father in the book.

“That’s Daddy,” he says. The room releases a collective “Aww.”

The scene is cute. It’s endearing. It would make anyone smile. But there’s more behind this moment—nearly 25 years and an organization that has been working relentlessly to shake things up in the world of children’s literature.

That’s the story of First Book, the nonprofit that is working with thousands of organizations like Smart from the Start to bring diverse stories to kids like Blake, and, in the process, it’s going where no one in the publishing industry has gone before.

First Book’s offices are tucked between a handful of restaurants and stores downtown, across the street from the National Press Club

“Who’s that?” Ms. Craft says, pointing to the little boy in the book.
“Me,” Blake replies.



◀ **Cherie Craft’s Woodland outpost of Smart from the Start receives books from First Book; kids constantly check in to see which books have arrived.**

and a few blocks from the White House. The 80-person organization rents four floors in a stone building with gilded trimmings. While First Book deals in nonprofit work, the space has the creative, playful nature of a startup. The senior vice president of finance sits in a desk he crafted entirely from books. The customer service team answers calls beneath streamers and the glow of Christmas lights. The stairwell linking the floors is covered in murals.

It feels animated and buzzy—not unlike Ms. Zimmer, 55, the alumna who is First Book’s president, CEO and co-founder. She is a recognized force in these halls and beyond: In 2014, the National Book Foundation presented her work with its annual Literarian Award, an honor previously given to Maya Angelou and Terry Gross.

She’s a petite woman, humble about her own accomplishments but completely enthusiastic about the goals of First Book. She’s upbeat, and she speaks authoritatively and directly, which might come from her years working in corporate law. Her demeanor is something the publishing industry talks about.

“The first thing that struck me about her was that she was a very motivating, energized, passionate person,” says Susan Katz, who retired last year as president and publisher of HarperCollins Children’s Books. “Kyle was a woman on a mission.”

That mission began more than 25 years ago when Ms. Zimmer was working as a lawyer. She spent time then volunteering at Martha’s Table, an organization that serves a large number of D.C. children who are homeless or underprivileged.

She would sit in a barren room, trying to tutor the kids and help them with homework.

“There would be 50 or 60 kids, doing everything right. They were looking for adult intervention. They were looking for a safe place,” Ms. Zimmer recalls.

She remembers thinking, “These hours would really be so much more valuable to these kids if we just had books.”

But Martha’s Table couldn’t afford books. Neither could most of the children’s families.

Ms. Zimmer grew up in a household that valued social justice and public service. As a lawyer, she had represented the interests of the Navajo Nation and worked for an organization founded by longtime

consumer safety advocate Joan Claybrook. She began to think about how to provide more books and educational resources to the kids she saw every week.

Starting a nonprofit was in the back of her mind early on. She had frequent conversations with her friend Elizabeth Arky, JD ’86. But to build the boundless repository that First Book would turn out to be, Ms. Zimmer first would need to learn the ins and outs of the publishing industry.

Lesson number one: To a publisher, every book is a risk.

The industry is based on a consignment model, Ms. Zimmer explains, and publishers have to front the money for all the retail books they produce. Books that collect dust on a store shelf become unsold inventory and they’re shipped back to publishing houses, which absorb the cost.

Publishers factor the cost of that returned inventory into their prices, which, in part, is why you’ll often see hardcover children’s books heaving an \$18 retail sticker. If you’re one of the estimated 31.4 million U.S. children living in a low-income family, that price is a nonstarter.

Lesson number two: Since publishers need to ensure they sell a certain amount of books, they produce titles that appeal to people who can buy them. Those people, unsurprisingly, are affluent. They are also predominantly Caucasian, and the stories told in the pages of a picture book often reflect that.

“This isn’t about black or white—the dominant color in this conversation is green,” Ms. Zimmer says. “I think if you went to a publisher and could prove that books about purple people would sell, publishers would climb over each other to produce them. These are businesses.”

It was that kind of acumen that set up First Book to be a partner to publishers, not an adversary.

Ms. Zimmer and Ms. Arky pitched their idea to friend and fellow lawyer Peter Gold. The three made plans to talk more about the challenges of the publishing industry and come up with some solutions over a meal together.

A successful dinner might end with a good conversation and some podcast recommendations. This one ended with an outline for building a social enterprise.

One of the most distinctive qualities about First Book is its plucky approach to innovation. Its ethos is similar to the “fail fast” mentality prevalent in Silicon Valley: If a



▲ **First Book President and CEO Kyle Zimmer, JD '87 (above), co-founded the nonprofit in 1992 with Elizabeth Arky, JD '86, and Peter Gold. Both Ms. Arky and Mr. Gold still serve on its board of directors, as they have from the beginning.**

strategy doesn't work, scrap it and learn from it. Then think of something better.

After experimenting with a volunteer-based distribution model, the First Book team came up with the idea of the National Book Bank.

Unsold children's books, cheerful illustrations and all, eventually get pulped into a cloudy liquid used for recycled paper. First Book's team realized they could save books from that end by creating an efficient avenue for publishers to donate excess inventory to North American schools and community programs serving children in need.

The result is the first and only clearinghouse for large-scale book donations, which launched in 1998. Through the National Book Bank alone, First Book now distributes approximately 10 million books each year from 19 warehouses around the country.

But, Ms. Zimmer says, the Book Bank alone wouldn't close the gap between the publishing industry and the base of the economic pyramid. The bank opened access to free books, but not to the ones flying off the shelves at stores. And because the Book Bank depended on donations, First Book couldn't predict what titles would be available at a given time. Ms. Zimmer wanted teachers and kids to have a chance to access the industry's best, and to know the titles they need will be

available when they need them.

So in 2008, the team set up an e-commerce site, the First Book Marketplace, specifically for those serving children in need. First Book arranged to buy large quantities of new titles from publishers. By guaranteeing that inventory would not be returned, First Book could negotiate lower prices and offer books to educators at 50 percent to 90 percent below retail.

From the start, Ms. Zimmer knew this would only work if First Book could allay publishers' concerns about an alternate market. So the organization set up a screening process: Anyone who wanted books would register through First Book and submit their bona fides. First Book would review every request.

"They were very market-driven and they wanted to know our needs," Susan Katz from HarperCollins remembered. "That—and that they were so dedicated to providing diverse books—made them easy to work with."

With publishers on board, the Marketplace began attracting a staggering range of people and organizations that worked with children. Requests came in from teachers who were opening their own wallets to fill classroom bookshelves, librarians wanting to replace tattered paperbacks, even barbershop owners who opened their doors to kids who

had nowhere else to go after school.

"Literally anywhere where kids gathered and where kids were reading—or, in most cases, not reading," Ms. Zimmer says.

The Marketplace evolved. It soon offered thousands of books (recently, it added snacks, school supplies and even coats). The membership roster of schools and programs grew with it. Between the National Book Bank and the Marketplace, the list hit 50,000 members, then 100,000.

And teachers and nonprofit workers didn't just ask for resources and walk away. They had questions and requests. They had ideas. What started as a screening device became a powerful feedback loop, for the first time aggregating a significant number of the 1.3 million educators that the organization estimates serve kids in need.

First Book began to realize its roster was more than a list of names: It was market muscle and it could be flexed.

Then a little larva with an appetite came along.

When network members repeatedly complained that they would need to buy both an English and a Spanish version of Eric Carle's 1969 classic, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, to serve the needs of their classrooms, First Book decided to test its heft.

The organization reached out to Philomel Books, a children's literature imprint of Penguin Books USA, with a proposition: If Philomel produced a bilingual edition of the

D.C. schoolkids pose with books they received during a Black History Month celebration hosted by First Book and the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for African Americans.





“This isn’t about black or white —the dominant color in this conversation is green.”

KYLE ZIMMER, PRESIDENT, CEO AND CO-FOUNDER OF FIRST BOOK

Turning a Page on Diversity?

The Cooperative Children's Book Center at the University of Wisconsin, Madison found (as of March 4, 2016) that 14.7 percent of the 3,400 books it received last year had a prominent character or subject representing a minority. That may not sound like much, but it's up from 9 percent in 2010. Here's a look at the 2015 figures and their increase from 2010.

AFRICAN/
AFRICAN
AMERICAN
265 (70%)

ASIAN PACIFIC/
ASIAN PACIFIC
AMERICAN
112 (75%)

LATINO
82 (24%)

NATIVE
AMERICAN/
FIRST NATION
42 (91%)



► book, First Book would buy 30,000 copies to sell on its Marketplace. With a guarantee that high, Philomel agreed and published the book in May 2011.

Ms. Zimmer was floored.

"Oh my God," she thought. "We could do things that have a splash effect in the larger market."

For First Book's next act, the organization set out to address the lack of diversity in children's books head-on.

Again and again First Book heard that the network wanted books that illustrate the experiences of their kids. According to a tally of 3,400 kids' books reviewed last year by the Cooperative Children's Book Center at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, only 7.8 percent had a significant character or subject representing African Americans, and for Latinos it was just 2.4 percent.

This would be trickier than stocking libraries and classrooms, or sparking a special run of one book. First Book would need to prove it had enough influence and buying power to fund a change. The organization was by now partially self-funded from revenues from the Marketplace, and it had financial support from foundations, corporate partners and others. Plus, now it had a network of hundreds of thousands of educators behind it.

In 2013, the organization approached publishers with an offer: First Book would put down \$500,000 to buy books from the publishing house that submitted the best selection of existing titles featuring minority voices, characters of color and diverse experiences. Publishers responded enthusiastically. And this time, Ms. Zimmer wasn't surprised.

"This is not a group of people who are recalcitrant. Publishers want to make this happen. It wasn't shaming the publishers—we were saying we have a market, and we can make it so publishers are less nervous about stepping out into uncertain territory," she says.

First Book was so inundated with proposals that it became hard to choose a single winner. It decided to choose two—HarperCollins and Lee & Low Books—and double its \$500,000 commitment.

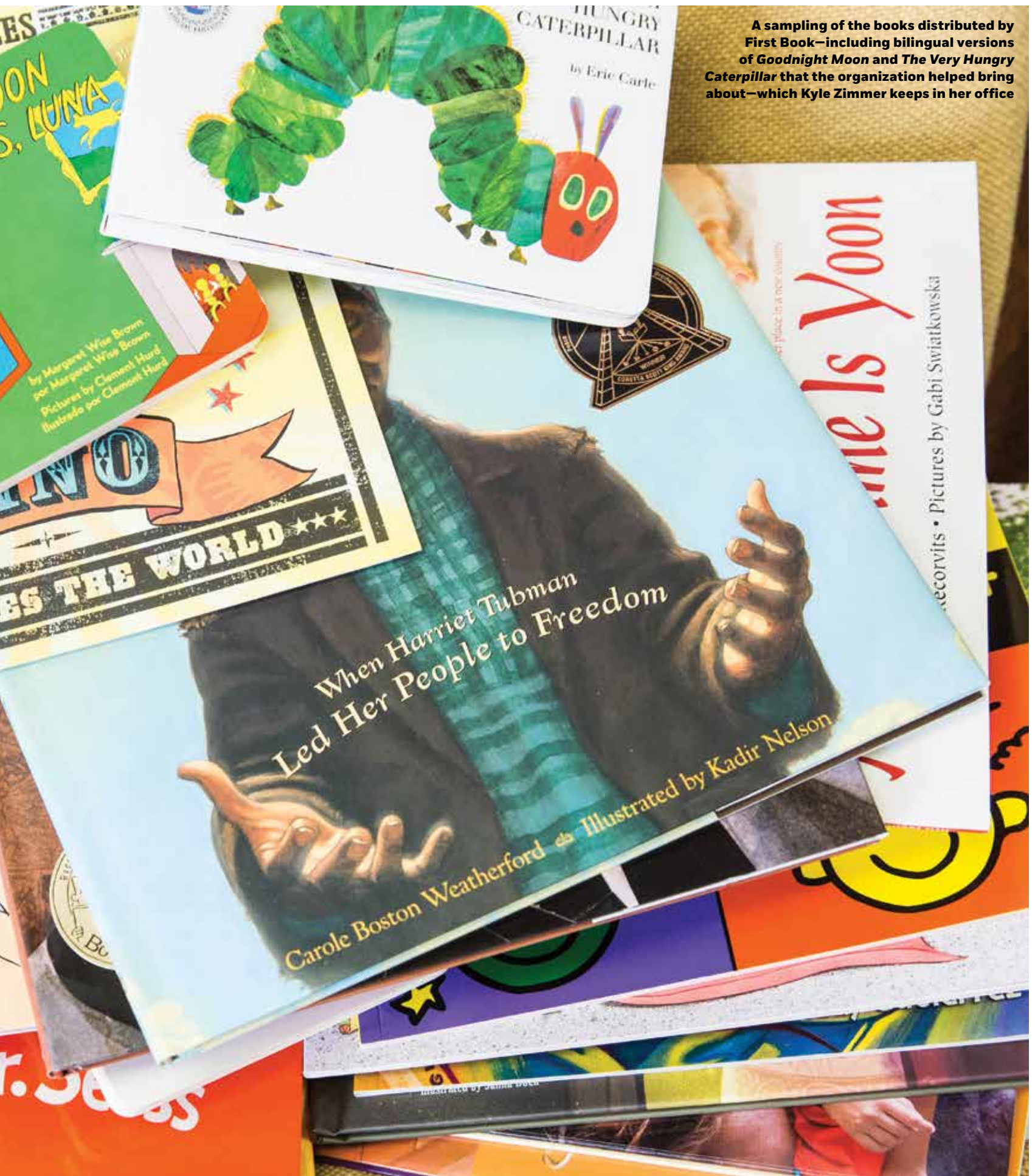
The "big buy," as First Book calls it, launched the start of its market-driven Stories for All Project, made media headlines and brought to the First Book Marketplace more than 600 existing titles featuring diverse characters and experiences.

Its expansion into this new realm only boosted growth: The membership roster now stands at more than 230,000 and the Marketplace sells 5 million low-cost books each year, on top of the 10 million that are given away by the Book Bank.

And as for that first test of its market muscle? First Book has sold more than 140,000 copies of the bilingual version of *The*



A sampling of the books distributed by First Book—including bilingual versions of *Goodnight Moon* and *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* that the organization helped bring about—which Kyle Zimmer keeps in her office





Very Hungry Caterpillar and inspired Penguin to make the edition available in retail stores.

Alison Morris' office resembles what a library might look like after an earthquake. Every couple of feet a new stack of books sprouts from the floor. The middle row of a blond wood shelf has collapsed under the weight of colorful volumes.

And yet, it doesn't feel chaotic. That might be because Ms. Morris herself is neat and organized in her thinking, and has a tidy catalog of children's books built in her head. She's read almost every text in the room.

As the senior director of First Book's collection development and merchandising team, Ms. Morris is the person who scours through journals and publisher catalogs. Her goal is to expand the Marketplace with materials that speak to the children First Book serves.

Questionnaires and surveys of First Book's network have helped paint a picture of those children. Forty-five percent of respondents report that the kids they serve face homelessness. Eighty-three percent say their students come from single-parent homes. Thirty-two percent say their kids encounter community or gang violence. Fifty-four percent report that the kids they serve have incarcerated parents or siblings.

Ms. Morris thinks about these things constantly when she's introducing new titles to the Marketplace. She goes to a bookshelf outside her office and comes back with a copy of Jacqueline Woodson's *Visiting Day*. The picture book follows a young girl excited about reuniting with her father, who is in prison. The story doesn't dwell on why he's incarcerated. Instead, it focuses on the child's relationship with her dad and the strength of their bond.

Another one of her favorite new books is K.A. Holt's *House Arrest*. The novel, written in verse, describes a young boy's year on probation after he uses a stolen credit card to help his family.

"I don't think books are intended only for a certain kind of kid," she says. "Any kid can read this and it will help them develop empathy and help them ponder their sense of right and wrong."

But when these books go into the hands of kids living these experiences, she says, they become personal.

The idea has continued to drive the organization's Stories for All Project. Last year, the Walt Disney Co. helped First Book distribute more than 270,000 culturally relevant

books to the Latino community. First Book also worked with HarperCollins to release an English and Spanish bilingual edition of *Goodnight Moon*.

More recently, working with Target, Jet-Blue and KPMG, First Book brought to its Marketplace 60,000 copies of six more books with diverse characters or plots. Two of those titles are from authors and illustrators new to the children's picture book world: *Boats for Papa*, Jessixa Bagley's story about dealing with the loss of a parent, and *Emmanuel's Dream*, Laurie Ann Thompson's true account of disabled cyclist Emmanuel Ofose Yeboah. Four were existing titles made available in exclusive paperback editions, including *And Tango Makes Three* about a same-sex family, and *Niño Wrestles the World* about a little lucha libre fighter.

In February, the White House, First Book, the New York Public Library, publishers and other libraries launched an effort to provide access to \$250 million worth of e-books for free to children from low-income families.

And this spring, the Library of Congress recognized First Book with its \$150,000 David M. Rubenstein Prize, part of the library's annual Literacy Awards.

Still, lofty goals remain. Ms. Zimmer says the market-driven strategies for the Stories for All Project will continue to evolve, and that First Book is expanding its presence in Canada and the United States, aiming to reach "every educator who needs us and every child who needs us." First Book also has small pilot projects in 19 countries to figure out how it can scale its distribution internationally.

On a Monday morning in February, lopsided lines of elementary school kids file into the Department of Education's auditorium. It isn't the sterile government building room you might imagine; the lighting is bright and the carpets are colorful and playful. There's music. The floor is decked out with a couple of football-shaped beanbag chairs that the kids race toward excitedly.

Five inner-city D.C. schools have been invited here for a Black History Month celebration hosted by First Book and the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for African Americans. The White House initiative has planned a couple of empowerment activities for the kids, and then First Book will give every child a hardcover copy of the anthology *Our White House: Looking In, Looking Out*.

A room full of kids spanning grades three through six might sound like a recipe for chaos. Yet the students are surprisingly quiet and attentive. They sit cross-legged watching little screens blaring videos of YouTube sensation Kid President.

The initiative's executive director, David J. Johns, takes the mic and kicks off the action. He's tall and enthusiastic, comfortable talking to elementary school-aged kids. He's been a teacher before, and he's been spearheading educational excellence for African American students since former Education Secretary Arne Duncan put him in charge of the initiative in 2013.

He pulls out a copy of Catherine Stier's *If I Were the President* and begins reading it out loud. The book follows a multicultural cast of kids imagining what it would be like to lead the country.

"If I were president," Mr. Johns reads, "I'd travel in my own limousine or my private airplane, Air Force One." He looks up at the crowd of students, and they're hooked. He decides to intersperse the story with some trivia.

"Do you guys want to know what the code name is for the president's car?" Mr. Johns asks. Heads bob up and down in unison.

"The *Beast*," he whispers, letting everyone in on the secret. Two boys exchange wide-eyed looks and one repeats the name: "The Beast!"


When Mr. Johns gets to the last page of the book, he breaks the kids into groups and gives them an assignment to come up with a list of what they would accomplish as president. Students gather around large sheets of paper to brainstorm ideas that range from "treat everyone equal" to "make college free." After every group presents its platform, First Book's staff begins lining up the kids in front of a massive table where their free books are waiting.

One by one, *Our White House: Looking In, Looking Out* gets placed into every pair of small hands. Some of the kids are so little they have to hug the weighty, 250-page hardcover with both arms.

A few teachers linger in the auditorium, asking their classes to pose for pictures. Clusters of students hold up their White House books before a constellation of flashing iPhone cameras. They grin up into the lenses, showing smiles with missing baby teeth. The phones come down, and a couple kids peel away from the crowd.

One child plops down in the middle of the floor and lurches the book onto his lap. He begins thumbing through it slowly, looking at illustrations of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. He lands on a picture of the White House.

After a day like today, where he's spent all day thinking about what he would do as president, he might be picturing himself in that house.

Next to him, a couple of other children have also stopped to look inside the book. The room has grown quiet—just a few voices and the sound of pages turning. 

David J. Johns (top) reads to a roomful of kids before asking them to list what they would accomplish as president (bottom).



TRACKING TERROR IN THE U.S.

By David Frey



A new think tank finds the “democratization of terrorist recruitment” on social media is helping to create an increasingly diverse picture of Islamic-inspired extremism.

On a Wednesday morning in December, Syed Rizwan Farook and his wife Tashfeen Malik put their 6-month-old daughter in the care of Mr. Farook’s mother and left the house for a day that would be burned into the history of terrorism on American soil.

Mr. Farook, born in Chicago and raised in southern California, left the two-story townhouse the couple rented in Redlands, Calif., 10 miles outside San Bernardino, to join coworkers at a holiday potluck. A graduate of California State University, San Bernardino, and brother of a decorated Navy man, Mr. Farook worked as a restaurant inspector for the California Public Health Department.

He met Ms. Malik on a Muslim dating site. She was born in Pakistan, raised in Saudi Arabia and studied pharmacology. Her traditional Sunni faith appealed to him. She came to the U.S. on a “fiancée visa,” a K-1. They married and lived a quiet suburban life until Dec. 2. Mr. Farook, 28, excused himself from the work party and returned a short time later with Ms. Malik, 29. Ms. Malik had posted on Facebook her loyalty to the Islamic State, or ISIS. Together, wearing masks and black tactical gear and wielding combat rifles and handguns, they opened fire on the party, killing 14 people and wounding 21 others.

The San Bernardino shooting spree was the deadliest act of terror on American soil since 9/11, and while the bloodshed was horrifying, —

the circumstances weren't a complete surprise to those who had been paying close attention to how violent extremism was taking shape in the United States.

One day before the shooting, *The New York Times* ran this headline: "ISIS Followers in U.S. Are Diverse and Young." The story detailed the findings of a report by GW's Program on Extremism that painted a picture of American ISIS followers that this young, suburban couple fit into well.

ISIS followers in the U.S. tend to be young, mostly male but increasingly female, the report found. They're active on social media and are spread across the spectrums of race, age, class and background. The vast majority are U.S. citizens or permanent residents.

The report, *ISIS in America*, made headlines across the country and around the world. In the days after San Bernardino, it gained even greater attention as the nation struggled to understand how a seemingly mild-mannered couple, well integrated into American society, could be secretly planning a bloody attack. The tiny think tank in downtown D.C., in an office building upstairs from a fast-casual restaurant, became a go-to source for understanding domestic terrorism and how otherwise ordinary people become radicalized. The report was based on a six-month study in which researchers mined thousands of pages of court documents related to 71 ISIS-related criminal cases, monitored hundreds of social media accounts and combed through media reports.

"The timing was right for the report to get a good look," says Seamus Hughes, 32, deputy director of the Program on Extremism. "No one else had done this kind of comprehensive look before."

The Program on Extremism began in June 2015 under the Office of the Vice President for Research's Center for Cyber and Homeland Security. As the center focused more closely on cyber security, the Program on Extremism was created to examine domestic extremism, including terrorists and their allies who have not engaged in violent acts. That includes

everything from ISIS sympathizers to white supremacists, although the program's staff is composed of Islamic extremism experts.

Director Lorenzo Vidino, 39, has spent 15 years studying Islamic extremism in the West. A native of Milan, he came to the Program on Extremism after holding positions at Harvard University's Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at the Kennedy School of Government, the U.S. Institute of Peace, the Rand Corp. and the Center for Security Studies in Zurich.

Mr. Hughes worked at the National Counterterrorism Center, helping to implement efforts to counter violent extremism.

From those two, the staff has grown to six, including researchers studying emerging extremist groups in Egypt and the Middle East and the radicalization of women; they've also added eight affiliated research fellows and almost a dozen interns.

Since its beginning, the group has drafted a number of papers that shed light on Islamic extremism, right-wing extremism and strategies to prevent radicalized extremists from turning violent. But it was the *ISIS in America* report that caught the most attention, in part because it challenged so many notions of what extremism looked like nationwide.

Their goal has been to inject data into a debate driven largely by fear and to paint a nuanced picture of a polarizing subject.

"The issue is there," Dr. Vidino says. "Let's have a reasonable debate about it."

The message they present is a complicated one. In the paper *Countering Violent Extremism in America*, the program declares that the threat of homegrown Islamic terrorism in the U.S. "is relatively low." But in *ISIS in America*, it describes its rise as "unprecedented." Both can be true, but they don't make for easy points in a political debate.

"It doesn't fit on a bumper sticker," Mr. Hughes says, but that approach, "nuance based on data," is crucial, he says.

"If you develop programs out of fear, they won't be successful," he says. The facts of extremism can be very different than the

perception and addressing it effectively can involve more cooperation than crackdowns.

Prior to the San Bernardino shooting, the number of Americans killed by white supremacists and other anti-government radicals since 9/11 far outnumbered those killed by Islamic extremists. Now, those numbers are about equal, Mr. Hughes says.

Yet compared to Europe, the United States' problems with Islamic extremism seem minor. In July 2015, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence estimated 250 individuals from the U.S. had traveled or attempted to travel to Syria to join the fighting there. Some 5,000 Europeans are estimated to have joined the ranks in Syria and Iraq.

Yet the number of ISIS sympathizers in the U.S. is growing. In May 2015, FBI Director James Comey said ISIS-related investigations were running in every state in the country, as "hundreds, maybe thousands" of ISIS sympathizers emerged.

"You see those documents? Those are court documents," Mr. Hughes says, pointing to a bookshelf in his office packed with binders—criminal complaints, indictments, affidavits and courtroom transcripts from the more than 7,000 pages that came out of what, by late February, had grown to 84 cases brought against suspected ISIS supporters over the past year. On one of those shelves sits a photograph of his grandfather, a D.C. police officer killed while trying to arrest a robbery suspect.

"I have an affinity for police officers and public safety officials who put their lives on the line," he says.

On the opposite wall, images of terrorism suspects fill a corkboard, connected by a web of string like something out of a cop drama.

"We wanted to look at ISIS recruits in the United States," says Mr. Hughes, who was drawn to studying terrorism by a curiosity about what attracted people to such radical ideologies. "A lot of people had been talking about it but nobody had taken a comprehensive look at it."

The portraits of those sympathizers defied

Their goal has been to inject data into a debate driven largely by fear and to paint a nuanced picture of a polarizing subject. "The issue is there," Dr. Vidino says. "Let's have a reasonable debate about it."

the expectations, based on previous generations of Islamist extremists, of middle-aged Muslim men, isolated and adrift in this country, raised on a fundamentalist interpretation of Islam. They defied just about any expectations at all.

According to the December report and subsequent updates, since March 2014:

- *The average age of people arrested for ISIS-related activities was 26. The youngest was a 15-year-old boy.*
- *Eighty-seven percent were male, but women were playing an increasing role.*
- *The vast majority were citizens, or in a few cases, permanent residents.*
- *Nearly 40 percent were converts to Islam, not people raised in the faith.*

It's a mixed group, "defying a cookie-cutter profile," the report says. Some are grown men who had been tempted by jihad for over a decade. One was the son of a Boston-area cop married to a single mother of two young children. The suspects included the 22-year-old son of an imam about to start graduate school and his 19-year-old bride, a former cheerleader and daughter of a Mississippi police officer, studying chemistry in college.

In this diverse crowd, a college-educated San Bernardino food inspector and his new wife do not stand out.

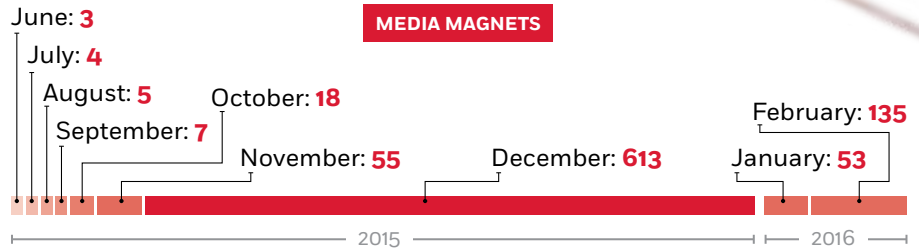
"It's difficult to find one answer as to why people radicalize," Dr. Vidino says.

His group's next step is to find what answers they can. They have embarked on an ambitious project to interview people who have been radicalized and, in some cases, arrested for terrorist-related activities. Some have reformed and are looking for redemption. Others remain in the throes of jihadism and are hoping to spread their ideologies.

"Most of them are American," Dr. Vidino says. "They are native speakers. They use slang. They have the same kind of interaction on social media that all American kids have, but they happened to be in this bubble that discusses ISIS."

Around Dr. Vidino's office are maps of his native Milan, where he watched many of his Muslim neighbors take up arms to join the fight in Bosnia in the 1990s. The imam at the neighborhood mosque was the leader of the foreign fighters in Bosnia, and, as Dr. Vidino watched criminal

VIDINO AND HUGHES: WILLIAM ATKINS / ASSEMBLAGE; LOGAN WERLINGER



The number of times the Program on Extremism, its directors or its researchers appeared in news stories by leading national news outlets (wire services, newspapers, television, radio and online), as well as top outlets in each state and region, and the top Beltway-focused news outlets, like *Politico*.

PROGRAM ON EXTREMISM

BY THE NUMBERS

2

Testimonies before Congress in first seven months



2

Number of people on staff when program began

6

Number of people on staff now

plus

8 affiliated research fellows

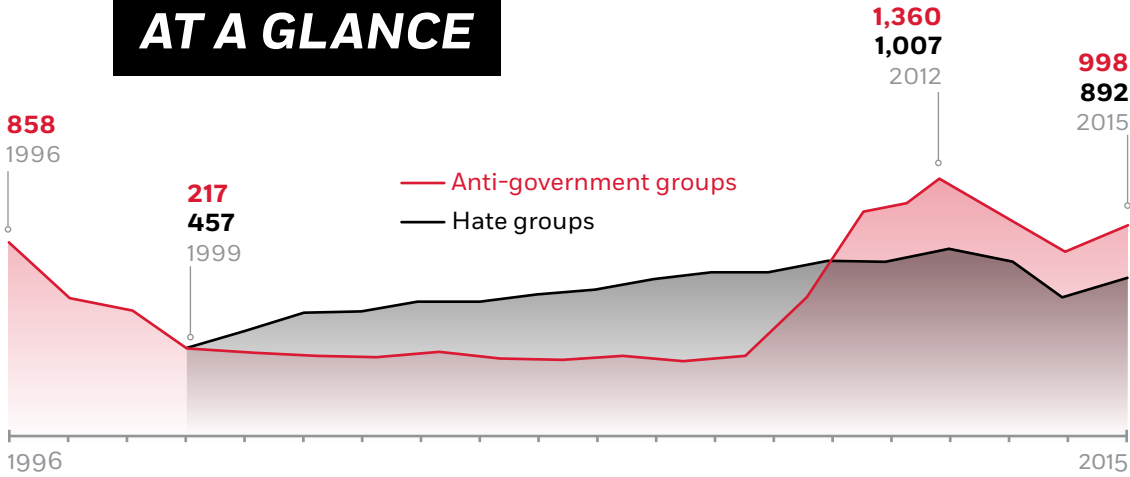
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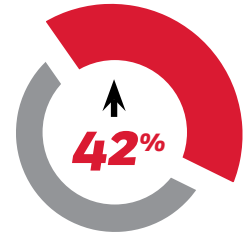
Program on Extremism Director Lorenzo Vidino (RIGHT) Deputy Director Seamus Hughes (LEFT)

DOMESTIC EXTREMISM

AT A GLANCE



Figures, above and below, are from the Southern Poverty Law Center, which attributed a marked rise in the number of hate groups since 2000 in part to “anger over Latino immigration” and projections showing a shift away from a white majority by around 2040 as well as a bump when President Obama took office in 2009. The Ku Klux Klan had 190 groups in 2015, the most of any organization. The SPLC counted 276 militias last year among various other groups it considered anti-government.

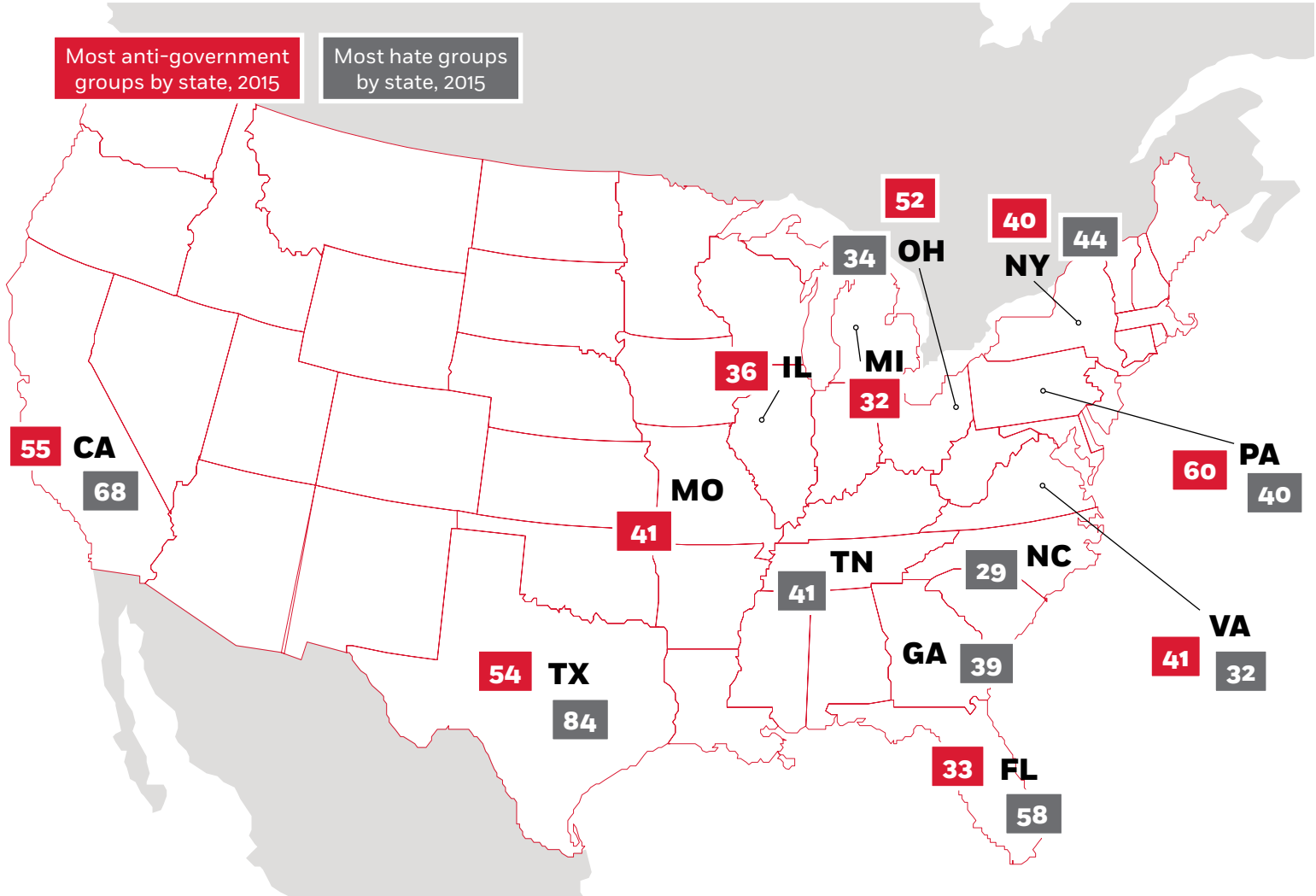


The rise in anti-Muslim hate groups since 2014. According to the SPLC, anti-Muslim hate groups are a “relatively new phenomenon” in the United States, springing up in the aftermath of 9/11.

45 victims of jihadist terrorism

48 victims of right-wing extremism

Nationwide from Sept. 12, 2001 to August 2015, according to the think tank New America





investigations and media reports target his neighborhood, he became fascinated by the growth of Muslim extremism.

“If you want to understand why people radicalize, there’s no better way than to get it from them,” he says. One commonality among them all, Dr. Vidino says, is the powerful message that jihadi groups provide and the promise they offer to supporters to be part of something bigger than themselves. The individual motivations can range widely, from a thirst for revenge to sympathy for Syrian refugees, the ISIS report says, but the motivation underlying most of them, Dr. Vidino told the Senate Homeland Security committee in January, “is that of living in a perfect Islamic society under the world’s only authentic Islamic government,” as followers see the ISIS caliphate.

That allure spreads on social media, especially on Twitter, where ISIS reaches potential recruits who otherwise would be out of reach, and where would-be supporters find jihad can be just a keystroke away. That’s one reason ISIS seems to be reaching younger people who are computer savvy, researchers say, and why women find it easier to join the ranks and evade the separation of sexes that kept many women out of past jihadi movements, where leaders didn’t welcome women’s participation.

“You can’t build an Islamic state with just men,” says Audrey Alexander, BA ’14, a research fellow at the Program on Extremism, who specializes in studying the radicalization of women.

While ISIS hasn’t welcomed women on the front lines, it has encouraged women to take on roles in recruiting, spreading propaganda, marrying jihadists and raising children in the group’s ideology.

“The mass media really doesn’t take them very seriously,” Ms. Alexander says. “That’s a huge problem because it undermines our ability to prevent women from joining.”

Women seem to join with the same mix of political and personal reasons that men join,

Ms. Alexander says, and social media has allowed young women to “try on a new identity” as Islamic extremists from the safety of their computer screens.

“With the use of social media, it essentially lowers the bar for people to be able to reach or radicalize or recruit online,” Mr. Hughes says. “It’s essentially the democratization of terrorist recruitment. If you’re a 20-something young woman from Philadelphia, you can reach out to a number of people and try to join ISIS in ways you wouldn’t have been able to before.”

The Program on Extremism has outlined a network of social media players. Some are “nodes,” core content creators who

online proclaiming the glory of long-gone caliphates that stretch back to the seventh century and the early days of Islam. The notion of rekindling a bygone era of glorious Islam was appealing, Mr. Awad says.

“Really, fundamentally, these people believe they are making a better world,” he says. “What protects you from going down that path is accepting the world as a diverse place. It’s accepting progress.”

Much of Mr. Hughes’ experience is in countering violent extremism. It’s a nascent field, but one communities are slowly turning to as they realize it may be more effective to stop terrorism before it starts. A few places, like Montgomery County, Md., are creating programs among police departments, mosques and Muslim communities to identify people being radicalized and steer them away from extremism. Following the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing, Boston, Los Angeles and Minneapolis-St. Paul took part in a

White House pilot program to test “countering violent extremism,” or CVE, strategies. Already in practice in several European countries, these CVE programs are designed to allow

It was the ISIS in America report that caught the most attention, in part because it challenged so many notions of what extremism looked like nationwide.

swap comedic memes, post news articles and send out official ISIS tweets. Some are “amplifiers”—either real-life sympathizers or automated accounts that retweet and “favorite” ISIS material. Others are “shout-out” accounts that introduce new pro-ISIS accounts and announce the accounts of suspended users who have switched accounts.

A recent white paper by the Program on Extremism found that suspending ISIS accounts succeeded in slashing their follower counts. Yet as Twitter cracks down on ISIS accounts, supporters have sought other social media platforms, like Telegram, a highly encrypted messaging platform popular among terrorist groups and dissidents in authoritarian countries, and a platform increasingly popular in the United States.

Mr. Hughes pulls out his cellphone and opens the Telegram app, where he finds an American woman in Syria giving daily updates about life on the front lines.

Research fellow Mokhtar Awad says he understands the allure. As a Muslim teen growing up in the United States, he says, he would find Islamic fundamentalist messages

family members or community members to alert authorities about young people who are radicalizing but haven’t committed a crime. Instead of launching a criminal investigation, authorities can work with families and religious communities to intervene. These programs have been criticized by some Muslim and civil liberties groups as government overreach, but others have embraced them as a way to keep young people who may start putting out questionable tweets or reading radical propaganda from turning violent.

“If you look at the cases,” Hughes says, “a vast majority of them had a bystander effect, where family members or loved ones saw something that was concerning but didn’t know how to act on it.”

Too often, Mr. Hughes says, Muslims in America get the message, whether it’s from their imam or from friends at school, that you can be Muslim, or you can be American, but you can’t be both.

“That’s a false choice,” he says. “To the extent that you can reinforce that—that you can be Muslim and American—I think that goes a long way.”

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**Trial
By Fire**

As students last year, two alumni won a man-clemency—for class credit

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**Birthday
Bashes**

As George rounded 284, alumni celebrated in 51 cities globally

60//
**Good
Match**

David Haggerty, BBA '79, takes the helm of tennis' governing authority

66//
**'It Wasn't
Pretty'**

Alumnus tops race of seven marathons, seven continents, seven days

ALUMNI NEWS



MEMORABILIA

Card Catalog

A niche collection of baseball cards makes it to Cooperstown.
//By Matthew Stoss

Jerry Dworkin, BBA '75, makes a bold claim about his collection of 111 Mike Piazza baseball cards, which, with the exception of a select 24 (more on those later), are stored in a secret safe.

"This is the most unusual collection of a hall of famer, or future hall famer, ever," Mr. Dworkin says.

Mr. Dworkin's collection is built around a specific Mike Piazza baseball card: Mike Piazza as a Florida Marlin.

For five games in May 1998, after he got traded from the Los Angeles Dodgers and before he got traded to the New York Mets, Mr. Piazza played for the Marlins. The to-be Hall of Fame catcher—he'll be inducted this summer—went 5-for-19, with a triple and five RBIs on a team that would lose 108 games.

It was an unremarkable stint on a terrible team. And yet, thanks to a historically robust baseball card industry that has since shriveled, 124 different iterations of Florida Marlins Mike Piazza cards were made. Some of them were mass-produced. Others were "one-of-ones," meaning only a single card of a particular design was ever printed.

Tipped off by the cousin of his then-girlfriend to the cards' existence and intrigued by the novelty of a Hall of Fame player making a cameo on a team, Mr. Dworkin—a man who'd never collected anything and was, at best, a casual sports fan—started collecting.

"Seventeen years ago, I jokingly—somehow—said, 'One day my collection is going to be exhibited in the Baseball Hall of Fame,'" says the 62-year-old attorney. "It was a total pipe dream. Never did I really think I would achieve that goal."

Remember those select 24?

Ever prescient, Mr. Dworkin was right, not only about the enduring novelty of the cards but also their value. On Nov. 7, 24 of his 111 different Mike Piazza Florida Marlins cards went on display at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown, N.Y., part of a 300-piece exhibit spread across two big rooms on the second floor.

"When we were looking for something that would be the perfect snapshot of baseball cards in the 1990s, we contacted Jerry," says John Odell, MA '95, the Hall of Fame's curator of history and research who knew about the Piazza Marlins cards because Mr. Dworkin had previously contacted the Hall of Fame. Mr. Odell had also read about Mr. Dworkin's collection in *The New York Times*.

The permanent exhibit, "A Whole New Ballgame," documents baseball from 1970 to the present, with an emphasis on how fans interact with the game, particularly through commercial ephemera.

In the collection are beer cans, cereal boxes, candy bars and, of course, baseball cards, which were never more popular than they were from the mid-1980s to late 1990s—the boom being the result of an antitrust lawsuit in 1981 that destroyed Topps' monopoly and opened the market for half a dozen upstart card companies.

By the early '90s, baseball cards were a \$1 billion-a-year industry, and manufacturers flooded the market with billions of cards. This is how a player's meager five-game stint with one team produces 124 separate cards.

The baseball card industry would implode in the late '90s because of an oversaturated market. The 1994 strike and subsequent steroid scandal didn't help, either. The industry has yet to recover—as of 2008, yearly revenues were about \$200 million—and the odds aren't good it ever will, making Mr. Dworkin's collection, which he loaned to the Hall of Fame on a year-to-year basis, that much more unique, that much more niche.

The Philadelphia native says he's spent more than \$10,000 acquiring his Mike Piazza Florida Marlins cards and as much as \$1,000 on a single card. He's also procured other Marlins-related memorabilia from Mr. Piazza's Miami layover, including the negatives of unused Topps baseball card photos.

Mr. Dworkin, who lives in Irvine, Calif., also has an autographed copy of Mr. Piazza's autobiography, which the former slugger signed during an appearance at a Pasadena, Calif., bookstore in February 2013.

"When I got up there, I said I was the Marlins guy," Mr. Dworkin says. "He was aware of me and he was aware of the [*New York Times*] article, and I said to him sign the book, 'Go Marlins.'"

Mr. Piazza did.

It's the only time the two have met, although Mr. Dworkin repeatedly wrote to David Letterman, lobbying to be on the *Late Show* with Mr. Piazza. It was part of Mr. Dworkin's Great Solicitation of 2012, when he mailed information packets to roughly 30 media personalities and outlets—including the *Times* (which ran a story on him on Jan. 1, 2013) and the Baseball Hall of Fame.

Mr. Dworkin is still collecting, too. He says he checks the Internet every day for Piazza Marlins cards—he purchased his most recent one in June—and sometimes, if he finds an eBay vendor selling some unopened packs of baseball cards from 1998 ...

"I'm willing to take a shot for a buck or two," Mr. Dworkin says, laughing. ☐

// 60s & EARLIER

Robine Andrau, BA '60, published *Bowing to the Emperor: We Were Captives in WWII* (Apple Rock Publishing, 2015), detailing her family's experience in prison camps in Indonesia and Japan during World War II.

William A. Gralnick, BA '65, MA '68, announced his retirement from a second career as a manager for the Palm Beach County (Fla.) Sheriff's Office, which, during his tenure, was commended by the Department of Homeland Security.

James Korman, JD '68, of Bean, Kinney & Korman, was honored by the Arlington (Va.) Bar Foundation with the William L. Winston Award, given annually to Northern Virginia community members who have distinguished themselves through the promotion of democratic ideals and advancing the rule of law.

Paul Spencer Sochaczewski, BA '69, is publishing five collections of stories, each titled *Curious Encounters of the Human Kind: True Asian Tales of Folly, Greed, Ambition and Dreams* (Explorer's Eye Press). They are based on his 45 years of living and traveling in Asia. Each collection covers a different part of Asia: Indonesia (September 2015) Myanmar (October 2015), Himalaya (December 2015), Borneo (February 2016) and Southeast Asia (March 2016).

// 70s

David Zimmerman, BA '70, MFA '76, exhibited his recent paintings in a solo art show in September 2015 at the Page-Walker Arts & History Center in Cary, N.C.

Robert F. Hemphill, MBA '72, published *Dust, Tea, Dingoes and Dragons* (Strelitzia Ventures, Oct. 1, 2014), a series of letters the author sent to his father during a decade traveling the world and building a billion-dollar company.

Linda Rabbitt, MA '72, chairman, founder and CEO of Rand Construction Corporation, is one of the 2016 recipients of the Horatio Alger Award, which is given to individuals who overcame personal challenges to achieve success.

Bruce Merwin, BA '73, of Thompson & Knight LLP in Houston, was recognized in the 2015 edition of *Texas Super Lawyers*. This list reflects only the top 5 percent of Texas lawyers.

Ellen Zane, BA '73, vice chair of the Tufts Medical Center board of trustees, was honored on Sept. 15 with a portrait in the medical center's atrium. The portrait is in recognition of her contributions to the center during her tenure as its president and CEO from 2004 to 2011. She is the first woman and the first non-physician to hold this position since the medical center's founding in 1796. Ms. Zane also is a member of GW's board of trustees.

Mark S. Fuller, BA '74, published *Never a Dull Moment: The Life of John Liggett Meigs* (Sunstone Press, August 2015), a biography of the author's friend, John Liggett Meigs, who, as a child, was kidnapped by his father before going on to a career as an artist—he was one of the original designers of





Rudolph Norris hugs Janice, a niece who had not seen him since she was 7, after his release from federal prison, in Upper Marlboro, Md., July 28, 2015.

LAW

Class Assignment: Free a Man from Prison

As law students, Courtney Francik and Bart Sheard petitioned President Obama to commute a man's sentence—and he did.

//By Ruth Steinhardt

Courtney Francik, JD '15, was a third-year student at GW Law School when she started working to free a man who had been in prison almost as long as she had been alive.

Seeking practical clinical experience before she began a legal career, Ms. Francik had signed up for the law school's Neighborhood Law and Policy Clinic. Under the supervision of clinic founder and Associate Professor of Clinical Law Jessica Steinberg, the program offers class credit each semester to 10 students who represent prisoners and people whose criminal records make it difficult to find jobs or housing.

When Ms. Francik enrolled in 2014, the clinic was branching out into a new arena. That April, the Department of Justice had announced a new clemency initiative for federal prisoners convicted of nonviolent, low-level offenses. Ms. Francik and her clinic partner, Bart Sheard, JD '15, were assigned the clinic's first clemency case: a D.C. native

in his late 50s named Rudolph Norris.

In 1992, police found 29 grams of crack cocaine in Mr. Norris' car. It was the height of the war on drugs, and repeat offenders received mandatory sentences much longer than they would have if convicted today. Mr. Norris was sentenced to 30 years in federal prison—even though, according to an article in *The New York Times*, a presentencing report stated unequivocally that “there was no victim in this offense.”

In prison, the *Times* wrote, Mr. Norris had committed to a clean record. (Phone calls to Mr. Norris seeking comment for this story were not returned by press time.)

He took a course as an electronics inspector and, in 22 years of imprisonment, had only three minor disciplinary violations. He was an almost ideal candidate

for clemency.

Ms. Francik had some experience with prisoners' rights—and with the tortuous convolutions of the federal court system. “We selected Courtney because she had interned over the summer at the federal public defender's office, so she had some experience in a notoriously complex area of law,” says Ms. Steinberg, the clinic supervisor.

Still, Ms. Francik says, she had no real idea what to expect. Applicants for clemency had to meet a number of prerequisites, and, since the federal program was a new one, there were no precedents to study.

“I was very excited and very anxious,” she remembers. “There were a number of different factors that the pardon attorney and the president were interested in determining to grant clemency. They ranged from pretty formulaic things—the sentencing guidelines [at the time of conviction] and how they operated—to things that had more to do with the individual person, their conduct while incarcerated.”

That being so, Ms. Francik and Mr. Sheard wanted to get to know the man for whom they would be advocating. They exchanged letters and spoke often by phone, and in November 2014 the pair traveled to the Federal Correctional Institution in Morgantown, W.Va., to meet Mr. Norris in person.

Ms. Francik was immediately charmed. “He's such a personable guy—very friendly, loves to talk, open, honest. He's just fun.”

The meeting reinforced the urgency of their mission. “We'd get to clinic really early and just be there all day,” she says. She and Mr. Sheard became familiar with the minutia of Mr. Norris. They pored over records and transcripts. They spoke to his family, to his former lawyers and to prison officials who had supervised him. When the semester ended, Ms. Francik chose to continue at the clinic for the spring 2015 semester in order to finish out the case—an unusual commitment, Ms. Steinberg says.

Finally, in February, Rudolph Norris' clemency petition was complete. It was 182 pages.

“The most challenging part of the whole case was turning it over when it was finished—worrying that there was a typo, or we'd made a mistake,” Ms. Francik says.

Then they waited. A month and a half later, on March 31, the clinic phone rang: It was a White House lawyer. Mr. Norris was one of 22 people selected

For more on the work of Gideon's Promise, see the summer 2015 GW Magazine feature, “Promise Keeper,” at magazine.gwu.edu

by President Barack Obama to receive clemency.

“Bart and I met in the [clinic] office and we got to be the ones that called [Mr. Norris] to tell him his petition had been granted,” Ms. Francik recalled. “There were definitely some tears—happy tears—involved.”

In late July, Mr. Norris walked out of prison to the waiting arms of family.

Ms. Francik’s absorption in the case, and its happy ending, sealed Ms. Francik’s career path. Now she works as an attorney in the Public Defender’s Office of Shelby County, Tenn., and is a fellow of Gideon’s Promise, an

organization founded by Jonathan Rapping, JD ’95, that trains public defenders to advocate for marginalized clients despite limited time and resources.

She is constantly in the courtroom, on the front lines of defense for those who, like Mr. Norris, could be disproportionately penalized by the criminal justice system. The work is “hectic,” she says, but still she tries to build in-depth relationships with the people she represents.

“I think it’s always a good thing to get to know a client personally,” she says. “You need to know what’s important to them.”

“We got to be the ones that called [Mr. Norris] to tell him his petition had been granted. There were definitely some tears—happy tears—involved.”



Courtney Francik, JD '15

FRANCIK: COURTESY COURTNEY FRANCIK / HULA SHIRT: ISTOCK.COM/PIDJOE

the hula shirt—and he interacted with, notably, Georgia O’Keefe and Vincent Price. He also spent time as a reporter and served in World War II.

Steven L. Cantor, JD ’75, is a managing partner of Miami-based Cantor & Webb P.A., which received the Member Firm of the Year Award during a gala event at the 2015 Geneva Group International World Conference in Boston.

Leonard Deege, MS ’75, published *Warrior: From Nazi Occupied Holland to the Jungles of Vietnam, An Immigrant Story* (Outskirts Press, November 2015), a memoir about his childhood in the German-occupied Netherlands during World War II and his experiences as a soldier in Vietnam after immigrating to the United States following high school.



Howard L. Sollins, BA ’75, of Ober/Kaler, was recognized in the 2016 edition of *Maryland Super Lawyers*.

Howard Williams, LLM ’75, a partner at Brooks Pierce, was recognized in the 2015 *Super Lawyers Business Edition*.

Arnold Goldberg, EdD ’77, is the executive director of Harbor Child Care in New Hyde Park, N.Y., following a 35-year career in public school education, including 10 years as a superintendent of schools on Long Island, N.Y.

Jeffrey Libman, BBA ’77, has been designated as a premier advisor at Wells Fargo Advisors for the fifth consecutive year.

Mark Dawidziak, BA ’78, a television critic and pop culture reporter at *The Plain Dealer* in Cleveland, was inducted into The Press Club of Cleveland Journalism Hall of Fame on Nov. 13.

Harry A. Milman, PhD ’78, published *A Death at Camp David* (Xlibris, November 2015), a novel of political intrigue and murder mystery set against the backdrop of the election of a woman as president of the United States.

John Beardsworth, JD ’79, a partner at Hunton & Williams in Richmond, Va., started a one-year term as chair-elect of the American Bar Association’s Section of Public Utility, Communications and Transportation Law. Next, he will serve a one-year term as chair.

Mireya Navarro, BA ’79, published *Stepdog* (G.P. Putnam’s Sons, April 2015), a humorous memoir about her marriage to a man with a very jealous dog. The book won “Readers’ Prize” in June 2015 from *Elle* magazine. Ms. Navarro is a reporter for *The New York Times*.

Brian Strand, MD ’79, joined Humana as its regional medical director for the Gulf States region, working in the area of Medicare Advantage. He spent 27 years in practice as a plastic surgeon and wound-care physician.

// 80s

John Saler, BA ’80, was appointed to the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia Corporate Council.

Ronda Wasserman Fisch, BA ’80, joined

Sparks fly from a birthday cake at the celebration in Shanghai



CELEBRATIONS

A Tradition In Just Six Years

There was one “George’s Birthday Bash” in 2010. Now there are 51.

In 2010, the San Antonio Alumni Network started celebrating George Washington’s birthday. The next year, 29 networks put on party hats for George.

Since its inception six years ago (thanks, San Antonio), George’s Birthday Bash has become a tradition, and this year 51 alumni networks—30 in the United States and 21 abroad—went bashing for George’s 284th birthday, four of which were first-time Bashers.*

This year’s celebrations drew some 880 partygoers—about 480 domestic and about 400 international—from Chicago (42) to Dubai (32). The most-attended Bash in the states was New York (62), and tops internationally was Tokyo (35).

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***Interested in becoming a basher?** If you live in an area that has an active regional alumni network—more on that at alumni.gwu.edu/community—there may be a George's Birthday Bash happening in your city. If you don't have a nearby network and are interested in starting one, contact the U.S. alumni programming team at alumni@gwu.edu or the international alumni programming team at gwgloba@gwu.edu.



TOP Beijing
MIDDLE LEFT Astana,
Kazakhstan
MIDDLE RIGHT Honolulu
BOTTOM Chicago

For more photos
 visit [go.gwu.edu/
 georgeturns284](http://go.gwu.edu/georgeturns284)

the Pittsburgh office of the law firm Jones Day as director of firm library services.

Debbie Albert, BA '83, president of Albert Communications, started "Guess Who's Coming to Shabbas," a program designed to engage and retain synagogue members with home-based Friday-night dinners. The program is used by more than 45 synagogues in North America.

Gregg Berman, BA '84, JD '87, of Thompson & Knight LLP, was recognized in the 2015 edition of *New York Metro Super Lawyers*.

David Lyle Kaplan, MBA '84, is completing his second (and final) term as mayor of Des Moines, Wash.

Nancy Frankel Pelletier, JD '84, was recognized for civil litigation in the 2015 edition of *Massachusetts Super Lawyers*. Ms. Pelletier has been recognized by *Super Lawyers* for more than 10 consecutive years.

Paul Fires, JD '85, a managing partner at Weber Gallagher, joined the board of trustees of the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia.

Luis J. Fujimoto, BS '85, was confirmed as chairman of the Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations for the American Dental Association in Chicago.

Barry Spielman, MA '85, published *From Gettysburg to Golan: How two great battles were won—and the lessons they share* (Hampress, September 2015). The book is a comparative history of two similar battles: Gettysburg during the American Civil War in 1863 and Golan Heights (a plateau located between Israel and Syria) in 1973 during the Yom Kippur War.

R.E. Burnett, MA '86, was named associate dean of academics-faculty at the National Defense University at Fort Lesley J. McNair in Washington, D.C., where he's also professor of international security affairs. He was the keynote lecturer for the Australian Department of Defense's conference on emerging disruptive technologies, at the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia, as well as the plenary speaker at a similar conference at the University of Melbourne.

George F. Indest III, LLM '86, an attorney at The Health Law Firm in Orlando, Fla., obtained a decision and recommendation from an administrative law judge for the dismissal of all charges against a Florida high school teacher accused of making statements to two students that offended them. The teacher also was charged with using a minor vulgarity in a text message to a student.

Kim Rowland Copperthite, MBA '87, received the bronze medal award from the U.S. Department of Commerce on Sept. 30 for "superior service and work as a federal employee." In the past, she's also been awarded gold and silver medals.

Heide Koenitzer Clark, BA '86, MA '89, published *The Robin Stories* (CreateSpace, September 2015), a novel about an emotional young man struggling through life and family as he attempts to write a great work of literature.

Greg Altieri, BBA '87, MBA '90, launched OurLittleHero.net, a website where boys, ages 7 to 12, fill out personal details



TENNIS

The Ball is in his Court

Former GW tennis star David Haggerty recently took the helm of the sport's international governing body. // By Gray Turner, MPS '11

The fact that none of the 70 international sports governing bodies recognized by the International Olympic Committee were led by an American was not lost on David Haggerty, BBA '79, as he threw his hat in the ring in the spring of 2015 to become president of the International Tennis Federation (ITF). Neither was the fact that it had been more than 40 years since an American had been elected to tennis' top post.

"At times, there's an anti-American sentiment among these global organizations, so frankly, being American was a challenge in running," Mr. Haggerty says. "I thought I would do well, but I didn't expect to win."

But the odds against him, staring him in the face, could not dampen his enthusiasm at the potential to further serve the sport he loves.

"I wanted to continue giving back to the sport that has done so much for me," Mr. Haggerty says. "My life has been, and still is, fully committed to tennis."

He began playing tennis at 5 years old. He would develop into a talented junior player and compete internationally before receiving a scholarship to play for the Colonials in the late '70s. He won a combined 184 singles and doubles matches during his

time at GW, playing as the No. 1 singles as well as in the top doubles pairing for his final three seasons. The three-time team MVP was inducted into the GW Athletics Hall of Fame in 2008 for his achievements, which included four consecutive all-metro championships.

After graduating with a business degree in 1979, Mr. Haggerty competed professionally in Europe and the U.S. before transitioning to the business side of the sport. He spent 32 years as a top executive with sports equipment manufacturers Prince, Dunlop Slazenger and Head USA before retiring in 2010 to devote himself to tennis on a volunteer basis as a member of the U.S. Tennis Association (USTA) Board of Directors. In total,

Mr. Haggerty has 16 years of volunteer experience with the USTA, becoming president of the USTA and of the U.S. Open in 2013.

On Sept. 25, he took his commitment to tennis to the highest level by defying the odds and getting elected as president of the ITF, coming from behind after the

For more from this interview, including David Haggerty's memories of GW, visit
go.gwu.edu/Haggerty



first round of voting.

"I was behind by 31 votes after the first round," he recalls. "When the two European candidates dropped out after that first ballot, it left just two of us in the race, and I knew it might be an uphill battle."

When the second round of ballots was counted, Mr. Haggerty had won, 200-192. He will serve a four-year term.

In his new job, Mr. Haggerty, who previously served on the body's board of directors, helms a federation dedicated to leading and growing the sport of tennis. That means working with nations and stakeholders to make decisions that ensure the future of tennis.

"It's the responsibility of the ITF to lead the sport by administering the game and upholding its values to ensure the integrity of tennis globally, but we're not Big Brother," Mr. Haggerty says. "We have an important role to play to govern, to lead the sport to do what's right, but at the same time, we need to respect the autonomy of our partners."

He points to the sport's four Grand Slams—the Australian Open, French Open, Wimbledon, and U.S. Open—which are all different and have their own traditions. The job, he says, is respecting that uniqueness while continuing to advance the game.

"Our mission is really to grow, promote and develop tennis around the world," he says. That includes raising and distributing funds to the ITF's 211 member nations for efforts ranging from grass-roots programs that build courts or provide equipment, to grants for top junior players to travel internationally to hone their skills and improve their rankings.

It also means getting more people watching the sport around the world—at home, online and at live events.

While the Grand Slams have attracted audiences in the millions over the years, Mr. Haggerty says that elevating the Davis Cup and Fed Cup—the annual national team competitions for men and women, respectively—and boosting their audience is an important next step for the sport.

"We have 130 nations that compete in the Davis Cup, and a little more than 100 that compete in the Fed Cup," he says. "These

national team competitions are played around the world, and that's a tremendous opportunity to bring professional tennis to areas that might not see it any other way."

While tennis is typically an individual sport, Mr. Haggerty says the team aspect that the Davis and Fed cups are built around is appealing to athletes and mirrors the national pride seen during the Olympics.

"This is an Olympic year, and all the top athletes want to be there in Rio competing for their countries," he says. "It's the same for the Davis and Fed Cup. The top tennis players—whether it's [Roger] Federer, [Novak] Djokovic or the Williams sisters—they all want to play. There's a lot of patriotism that comes through in those competitions."

The national competitions also provide the opportunity for new rivalries to emerge, something that has long been the lifeblood of tennis.

"Rivalries are what make sports so entertaining and compelling to watch, and we are very fortunate to have had some incredible ones over the years," says Mr. Haggerty.

The rivalry between Venus and Serena Williams has been a boon for the women's game for years, and Mr. Haggerty points to the clash of Chris Evert and Martina Navratilova as another compelling example. "That rivalry was certainly great for tennis," he says.

He recalls the Björn Borg-John McEnroe rivalry as a favorite growing up, and loves the recent rivalries among Novak Djokovic, Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal, and Andy Murray at the top of the men's game.

But as the sport's top stars age, does tennis face a future without compelling rivalries?

"I go back to a couple of years ago when everyone was worried that there would be no great matchups left when [Pete] Sampras and [Andre] Agassi retired and that we were never going to have that era of players again," Mr. Haggerty says. "Well, Federer and Nadal and then Djokovic emerged, and we've had some incredible tennis between them. So here we are now with the same conversation being had. Tennis is an ecosystem, and the best players always find their way through and will create great rivalries." 📧

“Rivalries are what make sports so entertaining and compelling to watch, and we are very fortunate to have had some incredible ones over the years.”

in a template to create a personalized adventure story in which they're the protagonist. There are six storylines: "A Knight's Tale," "Baseball Big Leagues," "Civil War Hero," "Fire Captain," "Undersea Explorer" and "Wild West."

Camille W. Hill, JD '88, of Bond, Schoeneck & King PLLC, was recognized in the 2016 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*.

Russ Bleemer, JD '89, was honored with the Angelo T. Cometa Award, which recognizes individuals or groups in New York that demonstrate a commitment to advancing the goals of the state bar's lawyer referral and information service. The award is sponsored by the New York State Bar Association's Committee on Lawyer Referral Service.

// 90s

Christine Burns Taraska, BA '90, launched a boutique accounting firm in Salem, Mass. She specializes in individual, small- to medium-size businesses, with an emphasis on multistate and international taxation.

Sally L. Frodge, MS '91, is program manager for the Alaskan Satellite Telecommunications Infrastructure.

Bret J. Muilenburg, MS '91, became the 44th commander of Naval Facilities Engineering Command and chief of civil engineers. He also was promoted to rear admiral (upper half).

Celeste M. Greene, MPA '94, is program director for business and professional studies within the School of Continuing and Professional Studies at the University of Virginia. She directs three online graduate certificate programs in public administration, project management and leadership. Ms. Green also teaches public administration courses in the Public Administration Certificate Program.

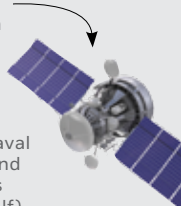
Kimberly S. Couch, JD '94, was recognized in the 2016 edition of *Best Lawyers*. Ms. Couch is an attorney at Verrill Dana in Portland, Maine.

Lee D. Hoffman, JD '94, LLM '96, received the 2015 Attorney of the Year award at the Connecticut Law Tribune's Professional Excellence Awards in Hartford, Conn., in November. Mr. Hoffman is the chair of Pullman & Comley LLC's environmental, energy and telecommunications department and a member of the firm's executive committee.

William P. Atkins, LLM '96, was elected to the managing board of Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP, where he has been practicing since 1992.

Paul Hartman, MA '96, is the Bangkok-based chief of party of the U.S. Agency for International Development's Mekong Adaptation and Resilience to Climate Change Project, which identifies the environmental, economic and social effects of climate change in the Lower Mekong Basin.

Yahia Lababidi, BA '96, contributed to *Short Flights: Thirty-Two Modern Writers Share Aphorisms of Insight, Inspiration, and Wit* (Schaffner Press, November 2015).





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HISTORY

The Path to 'Mr. President'

An alumna and a professor discuss the first battle of a nascent Congress.

George Washington was on his way to New York in the spring of 1789 to take the oath of office as first president of the United States. There was just one problem: Nobody knew what to call him once he got there.

"He's coming, the Senate is convening, and people start wondering: What are we going to call him?" Kathleen Bartoloni-Tuazon, MPhil '06, PhD '10, said at an event in February. "Are we just going to call him 'Mister?' I don't think so."

This confusion, she said, led to the first dispute between the Senate and the House of Representatives, the topic of Dr. Bartoloni-Tuazon's 2014 book, *For Fear of an Elective King*. She explored the topic in discussion with Associate Professor of History Denver Brunzman, part of the university's month-long celebration of Washington's life.

The idea of the presidency was contentious at the time, she said.

"We had just fought a war against a king, and yet, six years after the end of the war, this new Constitution featured a federal, singular,

central executive with no term limits and vaguely defined powers," she said.

"There were those who were worried that the president would turn into a des-

potic, all-powerful monarch. But there was another group of Americans who were worried about a weak executive that would be subject to manipulation."

Those fears framed a congressional (and later public) debate in April and May of 1789 over whether to add a regal prologue—"elective majesty" for example—to the title "president of the United States." The Senate wanted the title. The House was against it. Washington's own celebrity played a role in shaping positions.

"The enthusiasms toward Washington were so excessive and king-like," Dr. Bartoloni-Tuazon said. "He brought this whiff of monarchy to the presidency just in the way people celebrated him. And that was a problem for the office."

Vice President John Adams, who led the pro-title movement, feared the rise of an aristocracy that would corrupt and diminish the presidency, Dr. Brunzman said. He believed the Senate could become such a body if the executive was too weak. A powerful title with royal overtones would strengthen the office.

The House and its effective leader, James Madison—and, to an extent, Washington himself—were on the other side of the debate. Article II of the Constitution called the officeholder "president." The House saw no reason to deviate.

After three weeks, the Senate yielded to the House. It was a win for civil discourse—and for the presidency, Dr. Bartoloni-Tuazon said.

Debate, meanwhile, slowly moved into the streets and newspapers of the new country, where the public took up the argument that summer. A majority believed the Senate was right to drop the pro-title fight. Though they were debating something that was legislatively finished, it was an important moment, Dr. Bartoloni-Tuazon said.

"The public needed to debate this," she said. "As a result, some public fears—about their new government, Congress and their new president—were resolved. They gained more trust in the new federal government, that these new legislators could argue something as politically volatile as this and come up with the solution the people agreed with."

—James Irwin



Kathleen Bartoloni-Tuazon,
MPhil '06, PhD '10

an anthology that draws together the musings of short-form writing pioneers.

Jay P. Walters, JD '96, of GableGotwals in Oklahoma City, was named "Lawyer of the Year" in 2016 by *Best Lawyers* for his work in litigation mergers and acquisitions, litigation securities and Native American law. He was also recognized in the 2015 edition of *Oklahoma Super Lawyers*.

Michael Gardner, JD '97, a partner at Gardner Haas PLLC, was recognized in *Texas Super Lawyers* and *The Best Lawyers in America* for his work in commercial litigation.

Robert P. Jackson, MA '97, was sworn in as U.S. ambassador to the Republic of Ghana on Nov. 30. Previously, Mr. Jackson served as the U.S. Department of State's principal deputy assistant secretary for African affairs. From 2010 to 2013, he was the U.S. ambassador to the Republic of Cameroon.

Margaret Rosenfeld, JD '97, of Smith Anderson, was recognized in the 2016 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* for banking and finance law, corporate law and securities/capital markets law.

Tom Boer, JD '98, joined Hunton & Williams LLP as a partner in the firm's environmental practice in San Francisco.

// 00s

Christina Firpo, BA '00, published *The Uprooted: Race, Children, and Imperialism in French Indochina, 1890-1980* (University of Hawaii Press, January 2016), an in-depth investigation of the colony's child-removal program. Ms. Firpo is an associate professor of Southeast Asian history at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo.

Maureen A. O'Brien, JD '01, a member of Wiley Rein LLP's franchise practice, was promoted to of counsel.

Kate McCarthy Zachry, BA '01, joined WGBH in Boston as news director. Ms. McCarthy Zachry previously worked as an editorial producer for ABC News' *This Week with George Stephanopoulos*. She's also worked as a producer and digital producer for *Good Morning America*.

Michael Y. Bennett, BA '02, published *The Cambridge Introduction to Theatre and Literature of the Absurd* (Cambridge University Press, 2015), an overview of writers associated with the absurd who revolted against traditional theatre and literature. He also edited *Oscar Wilde's Society Plays* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2015), a collection of essays that helps readers uncover new ways to explore Wilde's serious—but still funny—plays. Mr. Bennett is an associate professor of English at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.

Andrew Wiseman, BA '02, received a Superior Honor Award from the U.S. Agency for International Development for his work mapping crime and violence in Honduras. He joined Apple Inc.'s maps team after seven years with USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives. He also teaches in GW's Geography Department.

Devon Tutak Steven, BA '03, was named the director of Ready to Learn Community Engagement at the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Ms. Steven will oversee

“

Oh, he wishes he could talk about it. Can you imagine having your book turned into a movie, having Leonardo DiCaprio in it?

// **TIM PUNKE**, the brother of **Michael Punke, BA '86**, speaking to *The Washington Post* in December. Michael is the author of *The Revenant: A Novel of Revenge*, which was made into a film that won three Oscars this year (for best actor, cinematography and directing). But he's also the deputy U.S. trade representative and the U.S. ambassador to the World Trade Organization and so, the *Post* reports, is barred by federal rules from promoting the film. "It's kind of bittersweet," his wife, Traci, told the paper.



"We wanted to make a statement that you can be a public servant and still leave a legacy that will have an impact on students and on the academic fabric of the university." - Jim and Wendy Core

Jim Core, ESIA MA '96, and Wendy Core, ESIA MA '94, have created a bequest intention in their retirement plan to fund the James and Wendy Core Graduate Fellowship. This fellowship will provide need-based support for graduate students enrolled full- or part-time at the Elliott School of International Affairs.

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FROM THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Fellow Colonials,

Whether you graduated from GW five years ago or 50, job hunting doesn't get any easier with age. Similarly, finding the right talent for your organization can be daunting without a rich pipeline of potential recruits steeped in civility, integrity and service. The solution to both might be right in front of you in the university's 275,000 alumni worldwide.

I have been able to navigate the roles of job hunter and employer across the past few years by leaning on the growing career services programming that our university offers to both students and alumni. And today, as the GW Alumni Association's vice president for career services, my goal is to empower you to find these services as useful as I have.

Here are a few tips that might come in handy, whether you're looking to hire or be hired:

	To Hire Colonials	To Get Hired by a Colonial
Put Yourself Out There (Online)	Post internships and job openings on GWork (alumni.gwu.edu/career); on social media, tag job opening posts with #hireGW for better visibility	Build a strong digital presence, including fully populated social media profiles with a current headshot; make sure your LinkedIn profile matches your résumé and be in the habit of updating both every six months
Link Up on LinkedIn	Start discussions in the 33,500-member GW Alumni Association group on LinkedIn to discover Colonial thought leaders	Engage in discussions to stand out to potential employers; connect with Colonials who can provide insight to support your job hunt; and grow your network in our virtual speed-networking hours
Put Yourself Out There (Physically)	Participate in the 10 career fairs and expos held on campus each year; get involved with an information session or as a panelist at an industry-focused event	Introduce yourself and try your elevator pitch at these events; you can also meet like-minded alumni through GW's alumni industry networks
Make the Most of Face Time	Host one-on-one, employer-in-residence office hours on campus or arrange a site visit at your office for interested Colonials	Take advantage of this dedicated time with an employer to demonstrate your interest in their career path and their organization

The best place to find year-round programming is calendar.gwu.edu, utilizing the filter for "Career & Professional Development." I hope to cross paths with you along the way—tweet your #hireGW success stories to me @dcASHA.

Raise High!

Asha Aravindakshan, BBA '02
Vice President, Career Services
GW Alumni Association
@dcASHA
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For more on Career Services at GW, visit alumni.gwu.edu/career

the development of local education collaborations—led by local television stations—to support early science learning and literacy in low-income communities through digital media and resources.

Obele Brown-West, BA '04, was among *PR Week's* Innovation 50, a list that recognizes rising stars in tech and digital communications in the agency, in-house and social media sectors. Ms. Brown-West is the vice president of account management at Piston.

Jamie Alfaro, BA '05, and **Won Choi, BS '06**, welcomed their daughter, Riley Lucia Choi, on Sept. 23.

Declan Binninger, BA '05, has become an associate at Heyl Royster. Mr. Binninger specializes in general tort litigation and professional liability defense.

Joe Callahan, BA '05, was appointed executive director of The Writer's Center, an independent literary organization in Bethesda, Md., that cultivates the creation, publication, presentation and dissemination of literary work.

Holly Gardner, MS '05, received Florida's Young Entrepreneur Award from Gov. Rick Scott. Ms. Gardner and her husband, Chris, are the founders of Safe & Happy Family, a line of food, housewares and body-care products for families affected by severe food allergies.

Sailesh Konda, BS '05, MD '09, finished his fellowship at Loma Linda University Medical Center in Loma Linda, Calif., and was selected as the co-director of Mohs surgery and cosmetic dermatology at the University of Florida in Gainesville, Fla.

Em Morrison, BA '05, won top prize for her five-minute comedic story at Story League D.C.'s November show. Ms. Morrison performed in Story League's Winter Championship on Dec. 9.

Mike Sheehan, BA '05, and **Bianca de Mattia, BA '05**, were married Oct. 24 at Material Culture in Philadelphia.

Erin Baumann, BA '06, was awarded the Basil Chubb Prize for Best Doctoral Thesis by the Political Studies Association of Ireland for her work "Between Politics and a Hard Place: Influences, Institutions, and Foreign Policies in Post-Soviet Eastern Europe." Ms. Baumann is the assistant director of curriculum and pedagogy in The John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

Shayna Priluck Bergman, BA '06, and her husband, **Jesse Bergman, BA '06**, welcomed their daughter, Sadie Bella Bergman, on Jan. 31, 2015. Mr. Bergman is a producer on MSNBC's *Hardball* and Ms. Bergman is a talent business adviser at Deloitte and an adjunct professor of public speaking at GW.

Wes Johnson, BS '06, and **Yin Hou, BS '08, MS '10**, were married on July 4 in Salisbury, Mass. The Johnsons reside in McLean, Va., where Yin is a software product manager for ThreatQuotient and Wes is a software engineer for SAP SuccessFactors.

Joseph S. Kakesh, JD '06, a member of Wiley Rein LLP's Environment and Safety Practice, was promoted to of counsel.

Damien Specht, JD '07, was named one of "D.C.'s Rising Stars" by the *National*

RUNNING

Around the World in Seven Days

Alumnus wins 2016 World Marathon Challenge while running to honor slain servicemen.

The pain first came like the thrust of a knife into his right hamstring, again and again, with each stride Dan Cartica, BBA '10, took. It was around mile 10 of his marathon in Dubai, but in truth, it was closer to mile 141 for the former GW cross-country runner. Five days earlier, Mr. Cartica and 14 other runners began the World Marathon Challenge, a brutal endurance race through seven marathons on all seven continents in just seven days.

The competitors started the endeavor in Union Glacier, Antarctica, a shining expanse of snow and glaciers that was -12 degrees Fahrenheit, despite the 24 hours of sunlight, when the race officially got underway on Jan. 23. After completing their first 26.2 miles of the week, the runners boarded a

Russian cargo jet and took off for their next marathon location: Punta Arenas, Chile.

From there it was on to Miami; then Madrid; Marrakech, Morocco; Dubai, United Arab Emirates; and Sydney, Australia, for a marathon in each city.

The Moroccan leg of the race was one of the toughest: When the

marathoners stepped across the start line in Marrakech, they did so just a few hours after completing the marathon in Madrid.

"Running the Moroccan leg on such a quick turnaround meant that I had run two full marathons in a 15-hour period and over 100 miles in just a few days," says Mr. Cartica, a captain in the U.S. Marine Corps. "When I hit mile 10 of the next leg in Dubai, the fatigue and depleted nutrition started to take their toll, and that's when the pain started."

As he struggled to keep his pace, his thoughts focused on the reason he was undertaking this grueling journey: to honor the Navy sailor and four U.S. Marines who were killed in Chattanooga, Tenn., on July 16, 2015.

"I knew, without question, that those five individuals would not have contemplated giving up or throwing in the towel, and that was really the mindset I had for the rest of that day," Mr. Cartica says. "So I kept fighting and got through those last 16 miles, but it wasn't pretty."

Less than 24 hours later, he crossed the final finish line in Sydney as the winner of the 2016 World Marathon Challenge. In all, Mr. Cartica finished first or tied for first in all but two of the race's seven stages (when he

placed second), setting a new world record for the fastest average marathon time for seven marathons on seven continents in seven days.

Mr. Cartica says he hasn't thought much about the record, but feels that maybe 15 or 20 years down the line it'll be an interesting asterisk next to his name. For now, he's hoping people will focus less on how he ran and more about why.

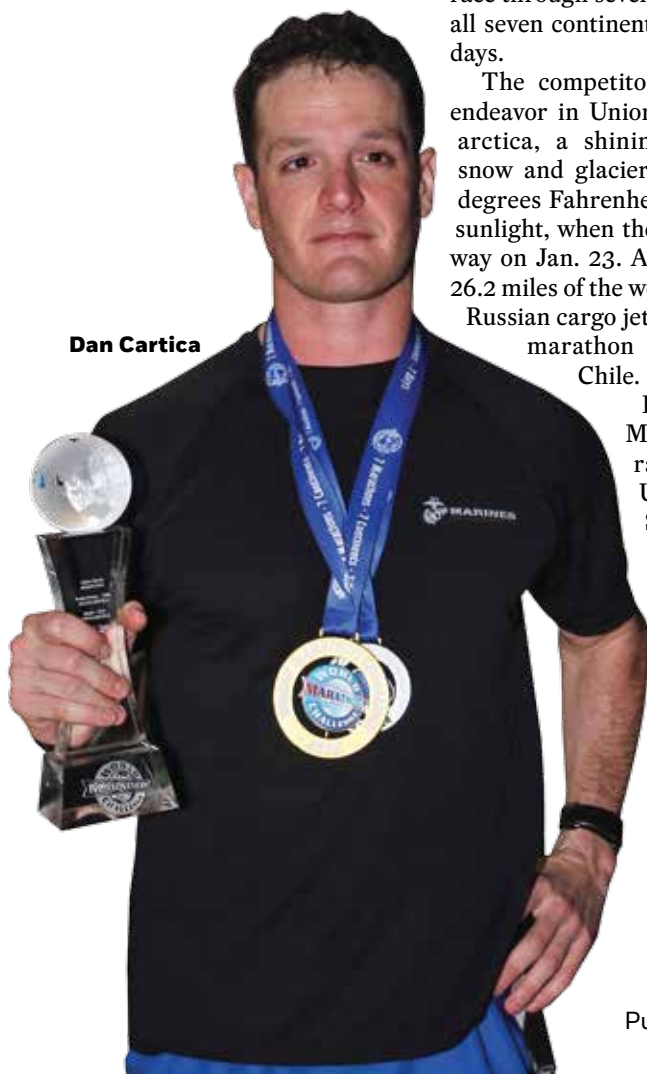
"Getting out the message of why I decided to run this race is the most important thing for me," he says. "The individual, Daniel Cartica, is just a normal guy who set out on this endeavor to honor five servicemen—they're the ones we should be honoring."

—Gray Turner, MPS '11

Read more about Mr. Cartica's experiences during the race at

go.gwu.edu/cartica

Dan Cartica



183.4

Miles traveled by foot

24,000+

Calories burned

3:12:46

Fastest time

Punta Arenas, Chile

3:42:02

Slowest time

Dubai, UAE

3:32:25

Average time

world record

AWARDS

Alumni to Be Honored for Service to GW

Six alumni will receive the Alumni Outstanding Service Award this spring for their volunteer efforts in support of the university. The awards, in their 55th year, will be presented at a ceremony on campus in April.

The honorees are:

GILBERT CISNEROS, BA '94, and his wife, Jacki, have made significant contributions to improving Hispanic education in the United States, including the donation of \$7 million last summer to create the GW Cisneros Hispanic Leadership Institute, which provides scholarships and a pre-college program. Mr. Cisneros is a member of the National Council for Arts and Sciences and the GW athletics board of advisors.

PASCALE DUMIT, BS '03, MS '05, served as chair of the GW Engineering Alumni Association from 2013 to 15, co-chair from 2011 to 13 and treasurer from 2005 to 08. She also served as a GW Alumni Association board member from 2011 to 2013.

MAXINE FREUND, MA '73, EDD '81, will receive the Jane Lingo Alumni Outstanding Service Award—presented to a faculty or staff member who is an alumnus and whose volunteer efforts consistently advance the mission of the university. Dr. Freund serves as associate dean for research and external relations at the Graduate School of Education and Human Development.

RICHARD FRISCH, BA '78, began his media career at CBS and later helped develop

the broadcast division for Reuters TV before moving into communications consulting. He is a member of the National Council for Media and Public Affairs.

JAY KATZEN, BA '67, MD '72, a member of the GW board of trustees, has built on the philanthropy of his parents, Cyrus and Myrtle Katzen, who made a \$10 million gift to GW in 2008 to fund a range of cancer research initiatives. Dr. Katzen oversees the family foundation, which has contributed to many local organizations, including the Cheney Cardiovascular Institute and Katzen Cancer Research Center.

MARK SHENKMAN, MBA '67, a member of the board of trustees, has supported several programs at the School of Business and funded the move and expansion of Veterans Memorial Park to Kogan Plaza. In 2014, he and his wife, Rosalind, donated \$5 million to support the GW Career Services Enhancement Initiative and the F. David Fowler Career Center. In 2013, he established the Shenkman Seminar Series at the Graduate School of Political Management.

—James Irwin

FROM LEFT
Maxine
Freund,
Gilbert
Cisneros
and Mark
Shenkman



Law Journal, one of 40 Washington, D.C., lawyers to make the list. Mr. Specht is a partner at Jenner & Block and serves as co-chairman of the firm's government contracts corporate transactions practice.

Brian Willis, JD '07, an attorney with Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick LLP, was a guest speaker at Tampa's Urban Core Board Member Roundtable on Oct. 7. He also spoke about small-town urbanism at Pecha Kucha Night Tampa Bay.

Dan Somma, MS '08, a commander in the U.S. Coast Guard, received the Department of Homeland Security's Exceptional Service Gold Medal for his work on the Syrian Weapons of Mass Destruction Decommissioning Task Force. The joint U.S. Army, Navy and Coast Guard task force mobilized a ship to destroy stockpiles of chemical weapons in Syria.

Shanyn Ronis, BA '09, selected from a field of about 30 candidates, received the Gifted Citizen Award in Puebla, Mexico, for her work in international education. The \$50,000 award, given by Poder Civico A.C., goes to individuals whose entrepreneurship projects have the potential to make a social impact. Ms. Ronis is the founder and executive director of the Education Global Access Program in Fairfax, Va.

// 10s

Daniel Lehmann, JD '10, joined Goldstein, Rikon, Rikon & Houghton, P.C., and had his article "Tax Certiorari: Recent Appellate Division Split in Interpreting New York Real Property Tax Law § 727(1)" published in the spring/summer 2015 issue of the New York State Bar Association's *Municipal Lawyer* journal.

Mariel Marlow, MPH '10, was selected by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as an epidemic intelligence service officer, also known as a "disease detective." Ms. Marlow is serving in the Division of Foodborne, Waterborne and Environmental Diseases in Atlanta. About 60 EIS officers are picked each year.

Francis Murray, BA '10, completed a federal clerkship and is an assistant U.S. attorney in the Middle District of Florida.

Katharine Phlegar, MA '10, received the 2015 Potomac Art Therapy Association Educator Award for excellence in professional scholarship and community outreach. Ms. Phlegar is an art therapist at Tracy's Kids at Children's National Health System in Washington, D.C.

Courtney Waid, MA '10, contributed to *The Strong Gray Line: War-time Reflections from the West Point Class of 2004* (Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, October 2015), an anthology of tributes to, and essays about, 2004 U.S. Military Academy graduates who died fighting terrorism. Ms. Waid wrote the chapter, "All the Things I Didn't Know," which reflects on the challenges she faced as a deployed soldier and as the wife of a deployed soldier.

Paul H. Shakotko, BS '11, and **Madeleine A. Peckham, BA '11**, were married at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Washington, D.C., on Oct. 3. Mr. Shakotko is a document management analyst for the Child Abuse Central Index International at the U.S. Department of Justice. Mrs.



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IN MEMORIAM

REMEMBERING



Benno Fritz

Benno Fritz, director and founder of the George Washington University's band program, died Feb. 4 in Daytona Beach, Fla. He was 54. Dr. Fritz, a trombonist who joined GW's faculty in 1990, was also an associate professor of music as well as director of bands. He conducted the University Symphonic Band, University Symphony Orchestra, University Wind Ensemble and the award-winning Colonial Brass, which plays at basketball games and university functions.



Mustafa Koç

Mustafa Koç, BBA '84, chairman of Koç Holding, a group of companies that account for approximately 5 percent of Turkey's gross domestic product, and an active GW alumni volunteer leader, died of a heart attack in Istanbul on Jan. 21. He was 55. Mr. Koç previously served as president of the GW Alumni Chapter in Turkey and was a member of the Rolls Royce International Advisory Board, the JP Morgan International Council and the Global Advisory Board of the Council on Foreign Relations.

Adrianna Vorderbruggen

Air Force **Maj. Adrianna Vorderbruggen, MS '10**, was killed Dec. 21 during a Taliban attack in Afghanistan, when a motorcycle exploded near a group of U.S. troops in Bagram. Maj. Vorderbruggen, 36, and her partner, Heather Lamb, had been advocates for abolishing the ban on gays in the military, commonly known as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." It was repealed in 2011.

Laura Eleanor Holmes, BA '35

Sept. 14, 2015
Rockville, Md.

Alfred W. Tate, JD '40

July 4, 2011

Martha Singleton, AA '41

July 31, 2013

Mary Dexter Jones, AA '42**Mary W. Renfro, MA '42**

Sept. 28, 2015
Lebanon, Ill.

Elise Whalley, AA '42

May 26, 2015
Nashville, Tenn.

Archibald Lane, AA '48, BA '49

Sept. 17, 2015
Fort Worth, Texas

Joseph B. Taphorn, BS '49, BL '50

Sept. 21, 2015
Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

Irving Fleishman, BA '50, BL '51

Nov. 6, 2015
Silver Spring, Md.

James B. George, MA '50

Aug. 18, 2015

George S. Jordan, BL '50

Nov. 12, 2015

Walter Kiechel, LLM '50, SJD '52

Aug. 28, 2011
Fort Belvoir, Va.

Frederick J. Bellamah, BA '51, BL '51

Nov. 11, 2015
Washington, D.C.

Ellen Eagan Earnest, BA '51

Aug. 24, 2015
Fredericksburg, Va.

Selwyn C. Jackson, LLM '51

October 1979

Marion G. Lawrence, BS '51

Sept. 28, 2015

R.C. "Dick" Donnelly, BL '52

Dec. 3, 2015
Washington, D.C.

Don S. Harmer, BS '52

Aug. 31, 2015
Atlanta

John D. Eaton, JD '53, MS '66

Sept. 23, 2015

John W. Follin, JD '53

Oct. 9, 2015
Falls Church, Va.

Shakotko is a program manager and executive assistant at the Order of Malta Federal Association. The couple resides in Silver Spring, Md.

Kathryn Martin, MA '12, received the 2015 Potomac Art Therapy Association Distinguished Service Award for her commitment to art therapy. At PATA, she has served as president, president-elect, secretary and student representative. Ms. Martin also is a board member.

Caitlin Pedati, MPH '12, MD '12, was selected by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as an epidemic intelligence service officer—also known as a "disease detective"—for the Nebraska State Health Department. About 60 EIS officers are picked each year.

Alexandra Kassirer, BA '13, published an article in the U.S. Military Academy's *Combating Terrorism Center Sentinel*, a periodical, in August. She is also an on-air terrorism analyst for NBCUniversal.

Shaun Khalfan, MBA '13, was selected as the chief systems security officer and senior cyber security executive for U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

Dakota Lee Hadley, MS '14, CERT '14, and Tinsley Simonds Iselin were married on April 11, 2015, on the banks of the Ashley River at Lowndes Grove Plantation in Charleston, S.C.

Michelle Manikkam, BS '15, was selected by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases to receive a National Institutes of Health Intramural Research Training Award Post-baccalaureate Traineeship. She will be working at the tuberculosis research section in the Laboratory of Clinical Infectious Diseases, training on the high throughput screening team.

Oluwafemi Masha, JD '15, joined the Chicago office of the intellectual property law firm Brinks Gilson & Lione as an associate.

John Pani, JD '15, joined the Washington, D.C., office of the intellectual property law firm Brinks Gilson & Lione as an associate.

Jane Woo, MA '15, received the 2015 Potomac Art Therapy Association Nancy Schoebel Scholarship Award for her essay "Life Stage Personal Reflection." The award is given to an art therapy graduate student who demonstrates excellence in writing on the topic of art therapy.

AND WHAT ABOUT YOU?
Submit your own class note, book or Artists' Quarter update:

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[2121 Eye Street, NW](#)
[Suite 501](#)
[Washington, DC 20052](#)

IN MEMORIAM

G. William Hammer, JD '53

Sept. 17, 2015
Lexington, Ky.

Leonard S. Homa, BL '53

Oct. 27, 2015

Herbert L. Kotz, BA '53, MD '56

Nov. 2, 2015
Potomac, Md.

Lawrence E. Carr Jr., LLM '54

Nov. 21, 2015
Alexandria, Va.

T. Habecker, JD '55

July 11, 2015

Daniel Myshin, JD '55

Nov. 21, 2011

Sarah Louise Boslow, AA '56

May 6, 2015

Paul Jay Flocken, BL '56

Aug. 16, 2015
Stanford, Conn.

J. Norvill Jones, BA '56, JD '60

Sept. 29, 2015

H. George Schweitzer, JD '56

Sept. 25, 2015
Jupiter, Fla.

Albert C. Baker, BA '57, MS '65

Sept. 27, 2015
Dataw Island, S.C.

John O. Diggs, MA '57, EdD '66

Sept. 21, 2015
Rockville, Md.

Herman Foster, JD '57

Sept. 7, 2015

Richard J. Jamborsky, BA '58, JD '63

Sept. 25, 2015

John T. Rogers, JD '58

Aug. 6, 2015

Thomas W. Farquhar, BA '60, MA '64, BL '66

Aug. 15, 2015

Wallace Brooks Jansen, BS '60

Aug. 28, 2015
St. Michaels, Md.

Samuel Beckner Stone, JD '60

Oct. 17, 2015
Newport Beach, Calif.

H. Randall Bixler, JD '61

July 24, 2013

Jack E. Phillips, JD '61

Sept. 23, 2015
Bartlesville, Okla.

Michael R. Herron, BS '62

Aug. 28, 2015
College Station, Texas

Joe Patton Morgan, MS '65

Sept. 23, 2015
Panama City Beach, Fla.

Hugo P. Pomrehn, MS '65

Aug. 18, 2015
Monrovia, Calif.

Ronald G. Shaw, MS '65

Jan. 4, 2014

Robert Bruce Hinds, BA '66

Sept. 14, 2015

John E. Condon, DSc '67

Aug. 25, 2015
Argyle, Wis.

John A. Garstka, MBA '67

Jan. 12, 2014
Los Angeles

Eric V. Youngquist, JD '67

Aug. 27, 2015

Perry S. Plexico, MS '68, CERT '92

Sept. 2, 2015
Frederick, Md.

Richard B. Schiff, JD '69

Sept. 18, 2015
Oakland, Md.

Alice Jeung Shih, MA '69

Nov. 29, 2014

Philip Anton Singer, RES '70

May 5, 2009

Charles O. Arnecke, MS '71

Sept. 13, 2015
San Antonio

Robert L. Richardson, JD '71

Sept. 3, 2006

Frank David Titus, BBA '71, MBA '72

Feb. 2, 2012

Virginia B. Wright, PhD '71

Sept. 21, 2015

Felix Randolph Aiken, BS '72

Sept. 3, 2015
Germantown, N.Y.

Joseph Bernard Credle, RES '72

Sept. 21, 2015

Sandra Lewis Seidel, JD '72

2003

Joseph L. Sites, MS '72

Sept. 20, 2015

Richard Ian Slippen, JD '72

March 13, 2013
Alexandria, Va.

Quentin Earl Wilhelmi, BS '72

Aug. 18, 2015
Cullen, Va.

Patrick Wolfram Jacobson, BA '73, MS '79, PhD '87

July 18, 2015
Alexandria, Va.

Sebastian Vittoria, MS '73

Sept. 10, 2015
Falmouth, Va.

Elbert Nixon, MA '75

July 15, 2015

Alan B. Pickett, MS '76

Sept. 23, 2015
Columbus, Ga.

George Walter Price, MA '76, PhD '79

Aug. 15, 2015
Falls Church, Va.

Pamela Jane Stolpman, MA '76

Aug. 18, 2015

Carol Bailey Mazur, BA '77, MA '92

June 15, 2015
Bon Air, Va./Clarksville, Va.

Cynthia Myers Young, MFA '78

Aug. 23, 2015
McLean, Va./La Jolla, Calif.

Nick T. Cave II, JD '80

Sept. 8, 2015
Overland Park, Kan.

Anne-Marie Verstegen, JD '80

Oct. 8, 2015
Chevy Chase, Md.

Brian Anthony Bannon, JD '81

Sept. 22, 2015

Jane S. Hammitt, JD '81

Sept. 13, 2015
Arlington, Va./Ann Arbor, Mich.

Christa Prinz McClure, LLM '81

Oct. 16, 2015

Therese J. Cooper, MA '84, EdD '91

Sept. 14, 2015
Washington, D.C.

Randolph Arthur Smith, JD '89

March 5, 2015

Katherine Mary Spooner, RES '90, RES '92

Jan. 1, 2001

Pamela Y. McFarland, JD '95

Jan. 3, 2015

William J. Bainbridge, JD '09

Oct. 30, 2015
Crofton, Md.

Stephen O. Walrabenstein, CERT '14

Aug. 23, 2015

*Former Faculty/Staff***Edward Adelson**

Clinical Professor of Medicine
School of Medicine
and Health Sciences
Aug. 31, 2015

UPCOMING SHOWS BY GW PROFESSORS AND ALUMNI

ARTISTS' QUARTER



TOP Ding Ren's "White Shirts," from the series *Invisibility Cloaks* BOTTOM An image from the series *Lungs*. For more on Ms. Ren's work and upcoming shows, visit dingren.net

Pattern Recognition

It was a simple slip of the tongue: "Google Sheep View."

Amsterdam-based artist Ding Ren, MFA '09, had sheep on her mind. It was 2015, the Chinese Year of the Sheep, and Ms. Ren had been visiting city farms to see the ungulates, which remind her of "puffy clouds on the ground."

When her husband returned from a train trip and said he'd seen sheep along the tracks, the two used Google Street View to locate the herd, and then others.

One malaprop later, their new Tumblr photo project (googlesheepview.com) had a name—and, shortly thereafter, international attention. People began sending in their own finds from Google Maps.

The blog, though lighthearted, relates to a broader artistic vision. Born in Wuhan, China, Ms. Ren seeks in her work "cross-cultural patterns that are both foreign and familiar. ... This can be anything from common, everyday observations, like the way laundry is hung out to dry, to the way curtains are used or not used over windows, to the way certain shapes, colors, shadows or lines are naturally found in the urban landscape," she says.

She aims to capture essences or feelings that otherwise evade capture in words. "I don't set out specifically looking for anything to photograph, but I let the place and the situation guide me," she says. That approach, she says, stems from her having been born in China, grown up in the U.S. and living in the Netherlands for the past five years.

Ms. Ren's photographs have appeared this year in an exhibit at South Korea's Csong Institute for Contemporary Art and last year at the He Xiangning Art Museum in Shenzhen, China. The latter exhibition, "Double Vision," featured her among 18 Chinese women artists living and working outside of China. "I think this is an important segment of Chinese art that is completely overlooked most of the time," she says.

"Nationality and one's cultural identity are more nuanced than just what it says on a passport." —Menachem Wecker, MA '09

INSTITUTIONAL KNOWLEDGE

MODERATE

“EXTREME”

CONTEXT

Extremism: A Historian's Perspective

Professor Leo Ribuffo talks about what we mean.

Leo Ribuffo, a GW professor of U.S. history since 1973, offers a note on the use of the word “extremism” in the United States.

From his perspective—the historian’s perspective—“extremism” is a vague term for something that’s not easily classified.

“On the one hand, Southern segregationists called Martin Luther King Jr. an extremist. Period,” says Dr. Ribuffo, who got his PhD at Yale University in 1976 and is the Society of Cincinnati George Washington Distinguished Professor of History. “On the other hand, Joseph Stalin framed himself as a moderate beset by extremists on his right and left. Period. In fact, King was not extreme and Stalin was not moderate. Period.”

Extremism is about context. Opinions

change over time. The Puritans are stamped as extremists today, but in 1600s New England, most people agreed with them.

“Since it represented the majority,” he says, “how can you call it an extreme movement?”

Opinions also change from place to place.

In the United States, self-described Democratic-socialist Bernie Sanders may be extreme—break up the banks! free college and antibiotics for everyone!—but in Norway, he’d probably be a moderate.

Dr. Ribuffo says he’s OK with “openly moralistic categories” like “bad, evil, stupid,” but won’t ascribe “extremist” to a person or concept. He’d actually like to retire the word altogether, especially as it relates to the U.S.

political spectrum, which, since the 1930s, has been based on the correctness of whatever’s considered the moderate position of the day and the demonization of the fringes.

“Probably the oldest political tactic anywhere—certainly the oldest political tactic in the United States—is to associate an opponent with his or her most disreputable or most peculiar allies,” Dr. Ribuffo says.

The problem with that is the fringes move.

“It was very common for opponents of Social Security to say this is like Nazism or Communism,” Dr. Ribuffo says. “If the government gives you a number today to carry in your wallet, before you know it, you’ll be in a concentration camp with the number tattooed on your arm.’ Now, whether you like the Social Security system or not, almost everybody in retrospect would say that was an overreaction.”

The language of extremism persists, Dr. Ribuffo says, because, historically, it’s been an easy way to talk about something that’s really hard.

“It’s kind of a conceptual problem,” Dr. Ribuffo says. “The real danger is that you write off people without trying to understand them. And if you’re going to deal with people, even your enemies, it’s better to understand them than not understand them. I mean, that’s not rocket science.” —**Matthew Stoss**



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