

GIDEON'S PROMISE /// THE ACTIVISTS' DILEMMA /// CURING DYSPHAGIA

THE GEORGE
WASHINGTON
UNIVERSITY
MAGAZINE
SUMMER 2015

GW



In Haiti with a medical team from the School of Nursing, Pulitzer Prize winner B. D. Colen, BA '73, turns a lens on the group's efforts and the struggle to make a difference in the beleaguered nation.



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GW MAGAZINE SUMMER 2015

A MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS



At the launch of a sexual assault awareness campaign at the White House in September, attended by President Steven Knapp and other student and administration leaders from GW, an audience member takes in the scene.

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Half a decade after a catastrophic earthquake, a Pulitzer Prize winner finds that life in the beleaguered nation goes on, as it always has. / **Story and Photos By B. D. Colen, BA '73** /

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For infants with disorders that leave them unable to eat, feeding tubes and surgeries offer an imperfect fix. The issue is in the brain, and that's where researchers are looking for a cure. / **By Lauren Ingeno** /

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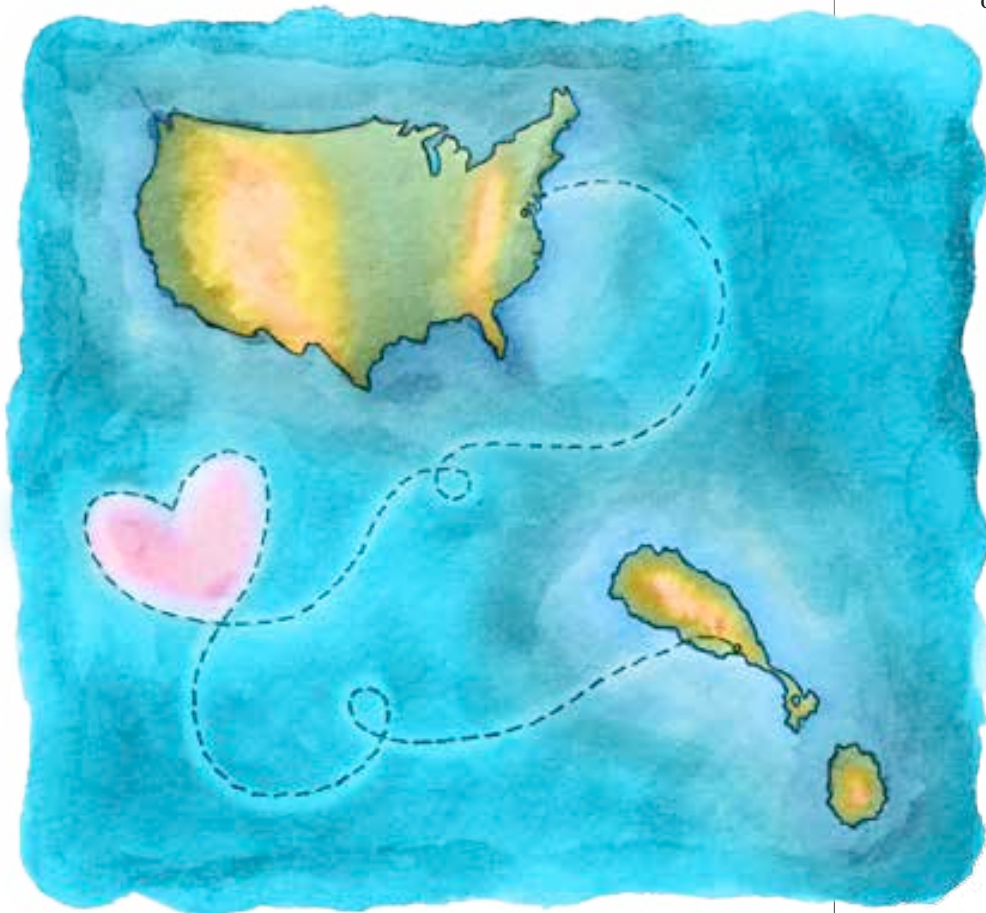
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Photo by B. D. Colen

BALANCING ACT



I believe the spring 2015 magazine is the most interesting edition I've read in four-plus years of employment.

I like the blend of personal experiences, reminiscences, university history and features. It is very well-written and designed.

Kudos to you and your staff!
Nancy Muse,
 Manager GW Faculty & Instructional Support

Dancing in the Seats

Your “Baby Boom” stories proved once again that becoming a parent is as individualized as it is ubiquitous.

I became a parent for the first time while an undergraduate student at GW. Hoping to complete as many courses as possible before the baby's arrival, I took a political geography course during the particularly hot D.C. summer of 1968.

In the midst of the lecture, I noticed a male student taking covert glances at my hugely pregnant abdomen. As both the lecture and my unborn child's movements became more animated, my classmate's complexion went from white to a grayish green. My thin white summer T-shirt did little to mask the protruding heels and elbows of my baby's “summer in the city” dance.

After all these years, I hope to

think that my classmate wasn't overly traumatized by what he saw, and I venture to guess that neither the profession of obstetrician nor surgeon was in his future, unlike the soon-to-be-born baby that caught his attention on that steamy day.
Eileen Coppola,
 BA '72

With Babies, a Recurring ‘Boom’

The rewards of working with and raising children can arrive in unexpected ways, sometimes years or decades later.

Five years ago my father passed away. On the afternoon of his wake, I welcomed neighbors, friends and family. To my surprise, my high school health teacher arrived.

I never thought Mr. W was a friend of my dad.

What brought him here? Did I overlook a family friend over the past three decades?

After thanking him for coming, I confessed that I was embarrassed that I did not realize that he and my dad were close.

Mr. W recounted his first year teaching the health science course in our high school, and the strong interest by parents who were anxious about the segment on sex education. My dad had scheduled an appointment with Mr. W to discuss the approach to this new curriculum. He was especially concerned that the class would not confuse his daughter (my younger sister) and create

conflict with our religious beliefs.

Mr. W explained that the time that he spent with my father helped him consider how to teach the material and how to explain this new subject to other parents. My dad's meeting with Mr. W was a very important experience in his 40 year teaching career.

As my own children have passed from playground to school to college and our working world, I look upon their success with wonder. I am grateful to the coaches, trainers, neighbors, relatives and others who shared responsibility for their growth. I am especially thankful for the teachers.

Today my sister is a nurse, working at a hospital that specializes in obstetrics and women's health.

Rich Collins,
 GW Associate Vice President for Law Development, parent of two GW alumni and another of the University of Virginia

... But the Spelling Was— Wait, Never Mind

An excellent article by Marc Leepson (“Death Certainly Would Soon Close the Scene”)! In the penultimate paragraph, though, John Wilkes Booth's death would have been 12 days, not 17, after fleeing Ford's Theatre.

Robert B. McClinton,
 MSIA/1969
 Sequim, Wash.

Another astute reader noted the misspelling of John Wilkes Booth's famous exclamation, “Sic semper tyrannis”—“as always to tyrants”—after jumping to the stage. We regret the errors.—Eds.

What's Coming Up

I enjoy reading the GW Magazine, especially the reviews of recent headliners and events. I often find myself wishing I

had known about the events in advance, so that I might have participated or attended. If the university maintains a calendar, I would like to see the magazine highlight a few events that are planned well in advance and provide a link to the most current information available.

**Rosemary Byrd, LLM '01,
North Beach, Md.**

Great idea, thank you. We'll work on finding ways to include more of that content. Meantime, the full university calendar can be found at calendar.gwu.edu. Event previews and coverage from GW Today can be found at gwtoday.gwu.edu. —Eds.

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Letters may be edited for clarity and space.

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ONLINE

We love print.

But darn it if there aren't some cool things that we just can't do on these pages. We can't serve up **audio of Pulitzer Prize winner B. D. Colen, BA '73**, as he gives a behind-the-lens perspective of his most compelling photos his recent trip to Haiti (Pg. 30). And we can't show you **video of National Poetry Slam champion Elizabeth Acevedo, BA '10**, (Pg. 15) as she demonstrates the exquisitely honed prose, intonation and body language that are the tools of her trade.

But we can give you both of those online, and now we have. Those web-only features—as well as a soup-to-nuts website redesign—are part of an effort to boost your reading experience whether you read *GW Magazine* in print, online or, as we hope increasingly, both.

—Eds.

Check out the new website and let us know what you think.

 magazine.gwu.edu

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“It’s amazing for them because they collaborate, go on stage and tell their stories, and the audience applauds them. It makes them reconsider what they are capable of.”

POET ELIZABETH ACEVEDO, BA '10, COACH OF THE D.C. YOUTH POETRY SLAM TEAM (PG. 15)

GW NEWS

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Apple CEO Tim Cook finished his Commencement address and, looking out at an estimated crowd of 25,000, snapped a photo.



COMMENCEMENT 2015

Apple CEO: ‘The Best View in the World’

Tim Cook tells grads on National Mall that “the world needs your energy, your passion, your impatience with progress.”


A broad smile broke across Tim Cook’s face as he finished his GW Commencement address. Then, the Apple CEO extended his iPhone in front of his chest, camera lens facing out.

“Congratulations, Class of 2015,” he said. “I’d like to take one photo of you, because this is the best view in the world.”

With the Washington Monument at his back and an estimated 25,000 people in attendance at GW’s Commencement ceremony on May 17, Mr. Cook, drawing

 **2,241**
 Number of undergraduates in the
 Class of 2015

 **45**
 U.S. states represented in the class,
 as well as D.C., Guam, Puerto Rico
 and the Virgin Islands

 **79**
 Countries represented by the
 graduating class

\$128K
 The amount of money raised by
 graduates for the senior class gift;
 more than 60 percent of graduating
 seniors donated to the effort.



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alumni.gwu.edu/alumni-volunteering.



▶ on both personal anecdotes and historical figures—from Martin Luther King Jr. and Ronald Reagan to Amelia Earhart and Miles Davis—urged graduates to have the audacity to challenge, and the courage to combine their moral beliefs with their vocational aspirations.

“There are problems that need to be solved, injustices that need to be ended, people that are still being persecuted, diseases still in need of cure,” Mr. Cook said. “No matter what you do next, the world needs your energy, your passion, your impatience with progress. History rarely yields to one person, but think and never forget what happens when it does.

“That can be you. That should be you. That must be you.”

Stories of personal conviction and a quest for knowledge populated Mr. Cook’s 20-minute speech. Imagination, effort, courage and lifelong learning were recurring themes throughout the ceremony. Congratulatory remarks preceded Mr. Cook’s address, provided by a host of speakers from the university administration, Board of Trustees and student body.

A powerful student speech, delivered by U.S. Marine Capt. Richard Ruiz, focused on the power of envisioning the future. Mr. Ruiz—a graduate student who earned his master’s degree in leadership and education development—captivated the audience with his story of becoming the first person in his

family to graduate from college after being deployed twice to Afghanistan.

“When I was a young man, fighting for this great nation in the mountains of Afghanistan, after nearly losing my life multiple times, I tried to imagine this moment,” he said. “You see, I tried to imagine a life of education and success.”

The university conferred honorary degrees to esteemed AIDS researcher Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases at the National Institutes of Health, and Carole M. Watson, PhD ’78, the former acting chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, in addition to Mr. Cook.

In his charge to the graduates, GW President Steven Knapp urged the 6,400-plus departing students to keep alive their spirit, imagination, curiosity and commitment to service.

“We depend on you to repair what earlier generations have broken, to build what we have left unbuilt, to learn what we have not yet learned, to heal what we have so far left unhealed,” he said. “And as you go forth to do these things, always know that, at the George Washington University, you have a home in the heart of this nation’s capital.”

– James Irwin and Lauren Ingenu

▶ To see the speeches, photos and more, visit commencement.gwu.edu.

GOVERNMENT

White House Summit Voices Needs of Fast-Growing Group

U.S. officials, other leaders discuss issues facing Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders

The Asian American and Pacific Islander community has a voice—and it is one that demanded to be heard as approximately 2,000 government representatives, artists and community and business leaders filled GW’s Lisner Auditorium in May for the first ever White House Summit on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, or AAPIs.

The summit is part of a White House initiative that aims to improve the quality of life and opportunities for the fastest-growing racial group in the United States.

In opening remarks, U.S. Rep. Judy Chu (D-Calif.), chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, remembered when the initiative amounted to a small group of people around a conference room table.

“Today, you have AAPIs here from across the nation,” she said. “Let’s work together to carry on the momentum of today’s historic summit. Let’s make sure that together as a united voice, we make a difference in improving the lives of AAPIs for generations to come.”

In panel discussions, cabinet secretaries—including from the departments of Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, Housing and Urban Development, Interior and Labor—and other leaders analyzed the progress made for AAPIs across the government in recent years and issues facing minority populations in general.

Closing the gap for underrepresented minority groups offers important lessons, said Secretary of Education Arne Duncan.

“For the first time ever, our public schools are majority minority. And we’re never going back,” he said. “How do we as a nation embrace this extraordinary diversity rather than see it as a threat? Can we find ways to be much more inclusive, much more supportive? If we do that, our country is stronger. If not, it presents some very real challenges.”

– **Julysa Lopez and James Irwin**



GW Business Plan Competition winners Grant Nelson, a second-year GW Law student, and Maria Belding, a freshman at the American University.

STARTUPS

Saving Bites With Bytes

Web tool to help food pantries deal with needs, excesses tops GW Business Plan Competition

Three years ago, Maria Belding was working at a church food pantry in Iowa when it received a big donation—in fact, too big: 10,000 boxes of macaroni and cheese that would expire in a year.

“It was great—but they never bothered to ask if we needed that much,” Ms. Belding said. “It was the middle of winter in Iowa, and I had to throw out 400 boxes of macaroni that had gone bad while there was a line of hungry people we had to turn away.”

To solve the problem, Ms. Belding, now a student at American University, enlisted the help of Grant Nelson, a GW law student, to build a database.

Mr. Nelson wrote every line of code for what would become the MEANS Database, a web-based, searchable tool that lets member food pantries and suppliers share information about whether they need specific products or have an excess of products, so that pantries can make better use of resources and avoid waste.

The startup won more than \$60,000 in cash and prizes and first place at the seventh

annual GW Business Plan Competition, held in April. In this year’s finals, 10 teams competed for a record high of more than \$200,000 in cash and in-kind prizes.

“Beyond the prizes, this has just been such a valuable experience,” Mr. Nelson said. “But the most valuable thing we learned was how to pitch. There was a workshop session with venture capitalists, and it helped us understand exactly how to pitch our mission.”

The MEANS Database is the first social entrepreneurship venture to win the top prize.

Finalists were selected by a panel of judges following two rounds of competition that began in January.

Among the other awardees, second place went to Quorum, a web-based platform that aims to transform the legislative process by making research easier. Launched by GW students Elizabeth Wuller and Joshua Hone with Harvard University students Alex Wirth and Jonathan Marks, Quorum aggregates legislative data and provides reference tools and quantitative analysis.

New to the competition was a \$5,000 prize for a start-up founded by a veteran or that focuses on serving veterans’ needs. That award, and the audience choice award, went to MedConnect, telemedicine smartphone technology that allows patients to connect with medical services via a digital application. That venture is led by GW Milken Institute School of Public Health graduate students Amy Rutkowske, who who served in the U.S. Army as a medical department officer, and Laira Roth.

– **Brittney Dunkins**

Visitors spiral down the museum's elliptical staircase during the building's opening weekend in March.



BUILDINGS

Three Exhibitions Mark Museum Opening

More than 2,000 people attend opening events of the co-branded George Washington University Museum and The Textile Museum

The university's new museum complex opened with a splash in March, as more than 2,000 visitors attended a weekend of inaugural events at the 53,000-square-foot custom-built space in Foggy Bottom.

The co-branded George Washington University Museum and The Textile Museum is made up of the Albert H. Small Washingtoniana Collection—a trove of 1,000 maps, prints and other documents that chronicle the evolution of the capital city—and the world-renowned collections of The Textile Museum, which include more than 19,000 textiles dating back to 3000 B.C.

Opening weekend events gave visitors a chance to tour the museum's inaugural exhibitions: "Unraveling Identity: Our Textiles, Our Stories" is the largest

exhibition in The Textile Museum's 90-year history and displays more than 100 objects spanning 2,000 years that communicate self expression; "Seat of Empire: Planning Washington, 1790-1801" uses maps from the Washingtoniana Collection to illustrate Pierre L'Enfant's early plans for the city; and "The Civil War and the Making of Modern Washington" offers a look at how D.C. transformed throughout the 1800s to become the city it is today.

The two latter exhibitions were designed by GW students and curated by history professors, spotlighting the educational and cross-disciplinary opportunities that officials say the new space will bring to GW.

"There are a lot of museums in Washington, but something that

distinguishes this museum is its integration into the educational experience at George Washington University," Museum Director John Wetenhall said. "It's all about hands-on learning experiences, and it's a participatory model that also welcomes collaboration with other local cultural institutions."

Inside the building, guests found a buzzing open-house festival, packed with arts, crafts and cultural performances from around the world. Visitors snaked their way through the four floors of exhibitions, craning their necks as they took in the galleries' high ceilings and the picturesque elliptical staircase spiraling down the lobby.

"To see the building completed is incredible," senior Amanda Rooth said. "The colors are beautiful, and it's totally different than any other museum in D.C. I was trying to think of something to compare it to, and I really can't. There's nothing quite like the setup, of having objects on the wall and on the floor and near you, so you can really interact with them." — **Julyssa Lopez**

For more on the exhibitions and future events at the museum, visit museum.gwu.edu.

EDUCATION

Giving STEM Majors the Tools to Teach

In a bid to help patch a science and engineering teaching and workforce pipeline “in critical need of repair,” the university is launching a program aimed at producing more teachers qualified to tackle so-called STEM subjects.

The program, GWTeach, modeled on an initiative founded at the University of Texas-Austin called UTeach, will train undergraduate science, engineering, technology and math majors to be public school teachers. The curriculum, to be offered this fall, will afford graduates a degree in their field and certification to teach in the Washington, D.C., public schools.

The Graduate School of Education and Human Development and the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences announced in March that the university was among 10 institutions to receive funding to implement the curriculum through a grant from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute to the National Math and Science Initiative. GW is one of 44 institutions around the nation to replicate the UTeach initiative.

“All of us know that our STEM pipeline is in critical need of repair,” said Ben Vinson, dean of the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences. “Through this partnership, we now have a clearer vision, a road map, for how to address the challenges ahead and how to be part of the solution.”

Kim Cherry, deputy chief of STEM for the District of Columbia Public Schools, glowed as she described the program’s potential for her students. “This is about giving an opportunity to urban students who would not otherwise have the chance to excel in math and science,” she said.

GWTeach is aimed, at least in part, at students who may not realize they have a passion for teaching. Introductory classes in the UTeach curriculum are open to all STEM students and require no commitment.

“When students have the option to pursue that interest [in teaching], it expands and doesn’t limit their opportunities,” said Mary Walker, associate director of the UTeach Institute. “It gives them two career options—though they generally go on to fall in love with teaching and to choose that.”

— Ruth Steinhardt

‘Unraveling Identity’ on Campus

“Unraveling Identity: Our Textiles, Our Stories,” one of the inaugural exhibitions at the new museum, comprises more than 100 objects—including contemporary loans like an authentic Givenchy dress and a pair of eight-inch platforms that belonged to Mae West—that help highlight the way clothing and other fabrics can reveal individual, cultural and social expression.

This spring, *GW Today*’s Julysa Lopez strolled Foggy Bottom asking, “What do your clothes say about you?”

“I try to give off a chill vibe. I don’t like to look too flashy, but I still want to be me. I don’t like tight clothes because I like to feel the wind breezing through me.”

Abeke Teyiba, sophomore

“When I wake up every day, my clothing shows how I feel about my presence in the world. Clothing is really empowering—if you’re wearing something cool, you feel like the queen of the world.”

Navneet Pandher, junior



“Usually, the more patterns the better. I’ve done it for so long that it’s become my own style. I think it shows I don’t take myself too seriously. I like bright colors, and I have a lot of energy, so I think my clothes reflect that.”

Hannah Jeffries, sophomore

“My outfit today shows off that I’m usually very relaxed, and I like to be comfortable.”

Roy Molina, program coordinator, Center for Latin American Issues

“I’d describe my personality as polished, so I like my clothing to reflect that—I go for a very clean look.”

Jack Keenan, junior



PHILANTHROPY

\$7M Donation To Boost Future Hispanic Leaders

Gilbert Cisneros, BA '94, and his wife, Jacki, have donated \$7 million to create the GW Cisneros Hispanic Leadership Institute, the university announced in June.

"Gil and Jacki Cisneros' magnificent gift will play a crucial role in creating the next generation of leaders of the Hispanic community," GW President Steven Knapp said.

The institute will offer a pre-college program to high school juniors, with plus-factor consideration given to students of Hispanic heritage who are committed to leadership and service within the Hispanic community. Prior to their senior year in high school, students from around the country will participate in a summer workshop in D.C. and will learn about the fundamentals of enrolling at selective universities. Activities and experiences will be designed to increase interest in attending and graduating from a top university.

The institute—established through an endowed fund by the couple and the foundation that bears the family name—also will provide college scholarships to select students, to be named Cisneros Scholars, who enroll at GW and demonstrate a commitment to leadership and community service and aspire to give back to the Hispanic community. Additionally, the institute will offer mentorship and support opportunities to the Cisneros Scholars and other students wishing to participate by connecting them with leaders and mentors within the Hispanic community.

"Undermatching [when students of high academic potential do not matriculate to selective universities] has become a significant problem for Hispanic students, and because of this, we're lacking much-needed diversity in our future leaders," Mr. Cisneros said. "My wife and I are excited to partner with GW to create a program that will help deserving students gain the leadership skills and confidence needed in order to apply to and attend a selective university."

Within four years, the university hopes to enroll 20 Cisneros Scholars. The first class of high school scholars will arrive next summer, and the first full-time undergraduate students during the 2016-17 academic year.

CORCORAN

At 'NEXT,' The State Of the Arts

Hundreds of visitors came through the doors of the Corcoran building this spring and into an exhibition where they crunched through dried foliage and took in a varied landscape of art—from video and photography to sculpture and digital illustration—in a show that has come to mark a rite of passage.

The annual thesis exhibition from the Corcoran School of the Arts and Design, called NEXT, opened in early April with the work of 40 seniors, and later in the month added the work of more than 60 graduate students. The show has become a mainstay in the D.C. arts community, giving the city a glimpse of an up-and-coming generation of artists and designers.

"We like to think of NEXT as being the capstone of our students' careers at the Corcoran, but it's also the beginning of their careers out in the world," says Andy Grundberg, NEXT curator and a photography



TOP Senior Whitney Waller's "Dasein" created a bucolic, idle shelter secured in turquoise walls. **BOTTOM** Short, flickering videos make up senior Kesi Marcus' installation, "In My Own Little World."

professor at the Corcoran School.

The show, which ran through May 18, has been a Corcoran tradition since 2011, and this year's iteration is the first as part of GW. Over the years, the opportunity for students to showcase work to the public has led to the discovery of many artists and designers by galleries around the country.

Nearly every aspect of the show passes through student hands. Beyond creating the art itself, students in a yearlong design course shape the overall look and brand of the exhibition. —**Julyssa Lopez**

RESEARCH

Federal Grant Launches D.C. Center for AIDS Research

A five-year, \$7.5 million grant from the National Institutes of Health has put AIDS researchers at GW—among them, the physician who diagnosed D.C.’s first AIDS patient—at the forefront of the fight against the disease.

The grant will fund a Center for AIDS Research, a citywide consortium of scientists and community partners that brings together nearly 200 researchers from three GW schools (the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, the Milken Institute School of Public Health and the School of Medicine and Health Sciences) as well as American, Georgetown and Howard universities, Children’s National Medical Center and the Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

GW professors Alan Greenberg and Gary Simon, the Walter G. Ross Professor of Medicine and of Microbiology and Tropical Medicine, will lead the endeavor. It was Dr. Simon who, in August 1981 at GW Hospital, diagnosed the first D.C. patient with AIDS.

“We want to make D.C. a destination city for researchers who want to have a tangible impact on fighting the HIV epidemic,” says Dr. Greenberg, the chair of the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics. “The CFAR will have a strategic, proactive role in having stimulated that, and if there is ever a cure for HIV, why shouldn’t progress toward that goal come from a D.C.-based institution?”

In the District, the number of new cases has dropped in recent years, though HIV remains an epidemic in the city, with 2.5 percent of the population living with the virus.

The D.C. CFAR will work to advance HIV research in the city, fund new HIV investigators—including a focus on early-stage, women and minority investigators—and increase interdisciplinary collaborations among the scientists and community partners. Two of the center’s primary research areas will be preventing the spread of HIV among highly affected populations and focusing on finding a cure.

There are fewer than 20 CFARs nationwide. The NIH created the program in 1988 with the goal of enhancing and coordinating high-quality AIDS research projects. Though not a brick-and-mortar building, a CFAR provides the core services to recruit established researchers and build interdisciplinary collaborations, as well as funding and mentorship for new HIV investigators.

The grant follows an NIH award in 2010, which enabled GW and its partner institutions to create a developmental CFAR, which is a step on the way to becoming a full CFAR. —**Lauren Ingeno**

RESEARCH

New Cancer Center, Leader Announced

Eduardo M. Sotomayor, a leader in lymphoma and immunotherapy research, will serve as the inaugural director of the new GW Cancer Center.

The center will provide care to patients in

the D.C. area, and have a particular focus on so-called personalized medicine—treatments that use a patient’s genetic makeup to uncover the specific biology of tumors, allowing for more targeted therapy.

“The rapid advances in genomics and immunotherapy are revealing to us cancer’s best kept secrets and weaknesses, which we should take advantage of as a first step to ultimately reach a cure,” Dr. Sotomayor says.

Dr. Sotomayor, formerly the scientific director of the DeBartolo Family Personalized Medicine Institute at Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa, Fla., starts at GW in July. The medical oncologist—who studied medicine in his native Peru and did his residency at the University of Miami School of Medicine—also chaired the center’s Department of Malignant Hematology and was a professor at the University of South Florida College of Medicine.

During a fellowship at Johns Hopkins University, Dr. Sotomayor participated in a research group that discovered how cancer cells—lymphomas in particular—block T cells, leading to uncontrolled tumor growth. T cells are essential for immunity because they fight infections and are able to destroy cancer cells.

A priority for Dr. Sotomayor will be attaining a National Cancer Institute designation for the new center. There currently are 68 such centers in the United States, which are funded by the National Institutes of Health and work to translate laboratory discoveries into new treatments.

“For an NCI designation, a center must show collaboration, integration and outreach,” Dr. Sotomayor says. “That requires leaders who can bring basic researchers, clinicians and population scientists together. What impressed me most about GW is that everyone is committed to that goal.” —**Lauren Ingeno**

“I knew it would not be possible for her to even consider somewhere like George Washington. So, when I tell you that I am extremely, extremely happy and relieved, I mean that from the bottom of my heart.”



Randee Grant, whose daughter Coumba Gueye was one of nine D.C. students to be surprised in March with a Stephen Joel Trachtenberg Scholarship, which covers tuition, room, board, books and fees for four years at GW. “I can’t stop shaking,” her daughter said. “I just feel really relieved.”

Watch the surprise announcements and hear from the students at
go.gwu.edu/SJT2015.

HEADLINERS AT UNIVERSITY EVENTS

GEORGE WELCOMES

“If I run and am elected president, it won’t be worth the paper it’s printed on.”

Former U.S. Sen. **Rick Santorum** (R-Pa.), commenting in March on the Obama administration’s potential nuclear deal with Iran, during an event hosted by the GW Young America Foundation. In May, the 2012 presidential hopeful announced he is making another run for the White House in 2016.

“I am not one thing, and neither are you.”

Transgender actress and advocate **Laverne Cox**, encouraging students to embrace their complex identities. She spoke at a packed Lisner Auditorium event in April that was organized to commemorate International Transgender Day of Visibility.

“We know brilliance. We know where all the point guards are—no point guards are left behind in this country.”

Gallup CEO **Jim Clifton**, arguing that a focus on treating and recruiting budding entrepreneurs in the same manner as star athletes or intellectuals could provide a boost to the country’s future economic growth. He gave the School of Business’ 16th annual Robert P. Maxon Lecture.



Rick Santorum

Laverne Cox

Jim Clifton

“With the 1994 crime bill a lot of people thought they were doing the right thing for communities... but I think it was dealing with symptoms of problems, not the core root of them.”

U.S. Sen. **Cory Booker** (D-N.J.) at GW’s Jack Morton Auditorium during a conference on the legacy of the Violent Crime and Law Enforcement Act. The event was convened by the nonprofit Vera Institute of Justice.



Cory Booker

Milan Panic

“We need a Pentagon of peace.”

Former Yugoslav Prime Minister **Milan Panic**, urging the United States to be a paragon for peace and pragmatic solutions, and to avoid resolving problems with military might. Mr. Panic spoke at the Elliott School of International Affairs in April and discussed his new memoir, *Prime Minister for Peace: My Struggle for Serbian Democracy*.

CHIEF EXECUTIVES

The CEOs of HBO Inc., KPMG-US, Johnson Publishing Company, MGM Resorts International and Siemens USA gathered before an audience of students, journalists and business and government leaders at GW’s Jack Morton Auditorium in April for a series of interviews on diversity—of employees, skills and products—and the digital economy.

The event, “Executive Actions: Steering Companies and Reimagining Industries,” served as the launch of a partnership between GW and *The Washington Post*. The company’s own CEO and publisher, Fred Ryan, was on-hand, and its reporters moderated the discussions. Here’s a look at what was said:

“We’ve faced competition from the beginning—22 years ago, it was unfathomable that a cable channel could compete with network TV,” said HBO CEO **Richard Plepler**, speaking about the channel’s flexibility, including the rollout of its new streaming service, HBO Now, which he called a “millennial missile”. “We’ve been appropriately evolutionary.”



Siemens USA President and CEO **Eric Spiegel** said the nation should refocus K-12 education on skills—like math and computer science—for thriving in the digital economy. “This is how we are going to rebuild the American middle class,” he said. “The whole world is digital.”

“Diversity has to be more than just words—it’s what you do,”

said CEO of Johnson Publishing Company **Desiree Rogers**. The company’s Fashion Fair Cosmetics line, she said, was born from the idea that women should be able to find makeup to match any skin tone.

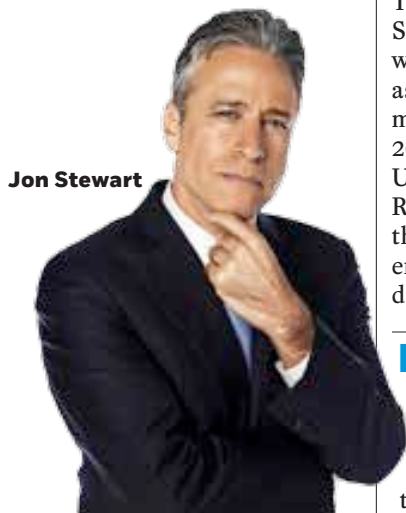


John Veihmeyer, KPMG International chairman and KPMG-US chairman and CEO, noted that a survey of 400 CEOs last year found their top concern is technology rendering their firms obsolete. With such quick shifts in industries, companies want recent college graduates with a good attitude, a willingness to learn and workplace experience, he said.

“Diversity sounds good. But where are you with managers, vice presidents and senior vice presidents?” said MGM Resorts Chairman and CEO **James Murren** of his company’s top-down approach, which includes tying managers’ bonuses, in part, to the diversity of their hires.



AT A GLANCE



Jon Stewart

'DAILY SHOW' HOST TO PLAY COLONIALS WEEKEND

Comedian Jon Stewart will headline Colonials Weekend for a third time on Oct. 17, following the end of his 20-year run as anchor of the award-winning satirical news program, *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart*. Tickets will be available online at students.gwu.edu/jonstewart starting July 7 at 10 a.m. Mr. Stewart previously appeared at Colonials Weekend in 2005 and 2009.

'CAREER QUEST' HEADS TO NYC

As part of the inaugural GW Career Quest program, 39 students spent two days this spring networking with prospective employers in New York City. A program of the

university's Center for Career Services and the Career Services Council, Career Quest was developed through a gift last year by Board of Trustees member Mark R. Shenkman, MBA '67, and his wife, Rosalind. Students were assigned an alumni mentor and made site visits to more than 20 companies—including NBC Universal, Spotify, the American Red Cross, Reclaim NYC and the Clinton Foundation—where employers fielded questions and discussed their companies.

DISHING OUT DONATIONS

In daylong "bowl-a-thons" at the Corcoran School of the Arts and Design's ceramic studio, faculty, staff, students, alumni and others helped make more than 500 bowls this year that were donated to the nonprofit So Others Might Eat for an annual fundraising drive in March. At the event—the proceeds from which help the organization feed more than 1,000 people each day—handcrafted bowls are sold to donors, filled with soup donated from D.C. restaurants.

NEW AGREEMENT WITH CAHUILLA INDIANS

The university signed a memorandum of understanding in the spring that will provide funding for members of federally recognized Native American tribes in California to study, live and work in D.C. The agreement with the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians will establish the semester-long Richard M.

Milanovich Fellowship and will support students through GW's Native American Political Leadership Program beginning next year.

A SERVICE-ORIENTED SPRING BREAK

More than 200 students spent spring break building schools, grading gardens, cleaning up trash and teaching English in 11 communities around the nation and the globe as part of GW's Alternative Breaks program. Sophomore Sara Durrani, a leader of a trip that helped build a communal stove and kitchen in a rural town in Ecuador, says the trips are more than just "service disconnected from the community you're working in. You build real relationships that are ongoing."

FILLMORE BUILDING SOLD

The university entered into a contract this spring with the nonprofit S&R Foundation for the sale of the Fillmore building, a historic Georgetown property that GW took ownership of in its agreement last August with the Corcoran Gallery of

Art, Corcoran College of Art + Design and the National Gallery of Art. S&R Foundation, which supports individuals in the arts, sciences and social entrepreneurship, will use the building as an arts incubator. Funds from the sale will be used for the renovation of the 17th Street Corcoran building and for programs within the Corcoran School of the Arts and Design.

SENIOR ASSOCIATE PROVOST FOR INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY NAMED

Doug Shaw, associate dean for planning, research and external relations at the Elliott School of International Affairs, will serve as GW's first senior associate provost for international strategy beginning this summer. The position, designed to be GW's chief officer for international programs and engagement, will be housed in the Office of the Provost. It was created to enhance the international student experience and facilitate educational partnerships around the world. 

"You don't need a five-year plan—if you give 200 percent to the job you're doing, your next step becomes apparent."

Aliza Licht, senior vice president of global communication for Donna Karan, who was among the business executives who headlined the sixth annual GW Women in Business conference this spring. Speakers encouraged attendees to throw out their five-year plans, saying the path to becoming CEO or CFO of a company might be an unconventional one.

5 QUESTIONS

...On Slam Poetry



Elizabeth Acevedo, BA '10, one of the 2014 National Poetry Slam champions, mixes poetry and performance to explore life and identity as a Dominican woman and first-generation American. She's also training a new wave of poets as coach of the D.C. Youth Poetry Slam Team, which wowed the audience at TEDxFoggyBottom in April. She spoke with *GW Magazine* about the art form and using it as a vehicle for social justice.

How do you define spoken word and slam?

I think people conflate the meanings when really they are just different names for the same thing. They'll say slam poetry is a separate genre than spoken word because you compete against other poets. I would argue that it's all just poetry. The poet decides that there is a way they can embody the words on stage, and the energy behind the poem is made more visceral because an audience is watching. Spoken word is just another name for that. It's poetry that the writer develops with consideration to how it comes across on a stage in three minutes.

How is the process different for performance poetry?

The writing is usually pretty similar in the beginning—developing imagery, figurative language, sounds and rhymes. But you can have more subtlety in a poem that you know someone will reread and pull apart to understand all of the pieces. With a performance poem you have to think, “Well, an audience is only going to be able to listen to this once in this moment.” Repetition, pauses

and organization help them follow along. And you have to be watchable. Audiences see speakers all the time, from professors to politicians, and they want someone credible on stage. I am always thinking of how hand motions add meaning or punctuation to a word or phrase. Pacing is the same. The way you pace a poem adds to the emotional rise of the message, and you have to build in moments for the audience to breathe.

Issues of sex, class and gender seem central to your work. Why?

I grew up in an interesting neighborhood in Harlem: On one end was a really gentrified area with Columbia University, and on the other end was gang violence and crime. I was in the middle. Even at 8 years old, poetry was my way of trying to understand why one side of the street had to deal with these problems that the other side of the street didn't. Later, a high school teacher who was a mentor to me asked why I never wrote about myself. I realized people couldn't see who I was in my work. So I made it my mission to express who I am on stage because the personal really is political. I navigate outside issues, but I always try to bring it back to myself, because

“I NEVER HAD A TEACHER OF COLOR. I WANTED TO BE THAT TEACHER FOR STUDENTS COMING UP.”

that is what people relate to.

What does the D.C. Youth Slam Team offer students?

The D.C. Youth Slam Team is under the umbrella of Split This Rock, an organization that focuses on the intersection of poetry and social justice. Poetry lends itself to being political because it needs a point of view or thesis to work. The students' lives are charged with political issues from a young age. They are writing about being teenagers in D.C., what it means to be a person of color or to live in a low-income neighborhood. It's amazing for them because they collaborate, go on stage and tell their stories, and the audience applauds them. It makes them reconsider what they are capable of.

Did you always want to teach poetry?

It was a natural path for me. I did Teach for America in Prince George's County, [Md.], teaching was a part of my duties while completing my MFA at the University of Maryland and I've been leading poetry workshops since high school. It's important to me because even though I was involved in performing arts programs growing up, I never had a teacher of color. I wanted to be that teacher for students coming up. If it hadn't been for teachers and mentors pushing me, I wouldn't be here. — **Brittney Dunkins**

See an exclusive performance by Ms. Acevedo and read more from this interview at gwmagazine.com.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

One for The Birds

The archives catalog description reads, “cap and gown of Frank Alexander Wetmore.” So it was a surprise to shake open a long gray box and find not a gown (we added the one shown for context) but four graduation hoods—in buff and blue, but also vibrant yellows, reds and white—and not a mortarboard but a spiffy Stetson top hat.

While the owner might not have agreed with the loose description, he probably could have appreciated the collection’s regal plumage and panache.

A renowned ornithologist and avian paleontologist, Dr. Wetmore, MA '16, PhD '20, HON '32 and longtime GW trustee, was the sixth secretary of the Smithsonian Institution and the first to have a PhD. He held the post from 1945 to 1952, and for the 20 years prior served as assistant secretary, in charge of what was then called the U.S. National Museum.

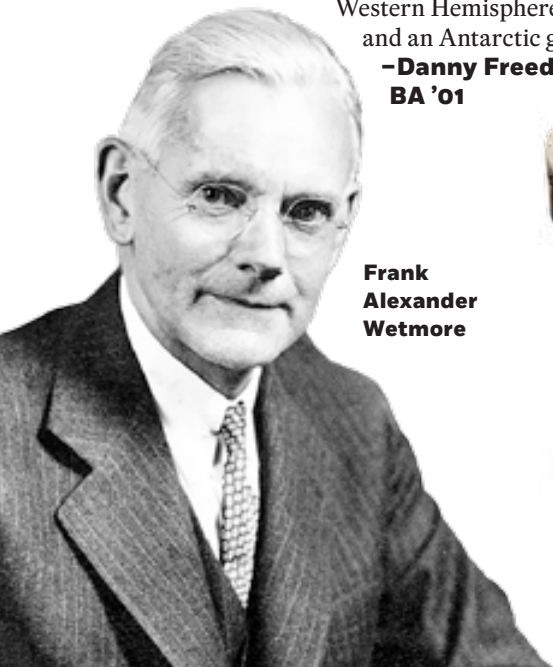
Dr. Wetmore was taken with the birds of Latin America, particularly Panama, to which he made annual scientific trips for two decades, and where villagers came to know the 6-foot-4 biologist as “Alejandro Grande.”

In all, he described 189 new species and subspecies of birds, and added more than 30,000 objects to the national collection.

Dr. Wetmore died in 1978. His mark on science lingers, though, in the more than 50 animals, groups of animals and a cactus named in his honor, along with a canopy bridge in

Panama—the first in the Western Hemisphere—and an Antarctic glacier.

—Danny Freedman, BA '01



Frank Alexander Wetmore





“These are the workhorses,” Ms. Johannesdottir says. The shiny domestic Bernina sewing machines are safer to learn on than their industrial counterparts, and the manual process allows garment makers to perfect complex stitches, like zigzags and overlocks.

Costumes look just like regular clothes on the outside but are engineered differently on the inside. They are built to be easily altered for different body types, and designers often strengthen fabric with layers of heavy-duty cotton in a process called flatlining.

The shop has dress forms in about 10 sizes, and a model with legs was recently purchased for making pants. Designers can tailor costumes to match exact measurements by padding the forms with foam.

Designers meet with actors before a production and take all kinds of measurements—from head size to wrist width. That information goes into what designers call “the show bible.” Garment mockups are made with muslin, a coarse cotton weave that serves as a stand-in for expensive fabrics.

SPACES

Stitch by Stitch

“Here is where all the action takes place,” Assistant Professor of Costume Design and Technology Sigridur Johannesdottir says as she walks into GW’s costume shop. By “action,” she means the sketching, stitching and styling by aspiring costume makers in the Department of Theatre and Dance, who make wardrobes for the university’s six annual productions and for professional companies in the city, like the Washington Stage Guild.

Inside, shelves and drawers overflow with tiny pins, buttons of every hue, tangles of zippers and stalks of white steel for corsets.

Students must create hundreds of looks—from ballgowns to handmade straw hats—that are stunning on stage but also highly durable. “Costumes need to last much longer than clothing,” Ms. Johannesdottir says. “They are worn night after night, and they need to look brand-new each time.” — **Julyssa Lopez**

SHOWCASING NEW BOOKS BY GW PROFESSORS AND ALUMNI

BOOKSHELVES



Lawrence A. Cunningham

The Mega-Corporation Next Door

GW Law professor Lawrence A. Cunningham has gotten to know Warren Buffett's \$350 billion company, Berkshire Hathaway, a colossus that manages to feel like a small business, he writes.

/By Menachem Wecker, MA '09 /

Since this book was published in October, Warren Buffett's behemoth conglomerate, Berkshire Hathaway Inc., has hardly sat still. It used its Procter & Gamble stock to buy Duracell; it acquired the car dealership Van Tuyl Group, whose previous year boasted about \$8 billion in sales; and Heinz, which it partially owns, merged with Kraft. But that's

all par for its course. So, too, is Berkshire's ability to absorb that change without rocking the culture at its core, says Lawrence A. Cunningham, the Henry St. George Tucker III Research Professor of Law.

"The good news," he says of all that activity, "is that it may warrant an updated edition in coming years."

Mr. Cunningham met Mr. Buffett in 1995, when the renowned investor and Presidential Medal of Freedom awardee attended a symposium about his letters to shareholders, which Mr. Cunningham hosted. The professor later published the letters in a book, which he sold at Berkshire's annual meetings and, over time, got to know Mr. Buffett and other personnel.

"Those relationships provided significant, valuable information and insight unavailable anywhere else," he says.

Those ties didn't lead Mr. Cunningham, who is also a

Berkshire investor, to avoid controversy. He concedes, though, that he generally prefers to write about positive things. "I have found it is much more fun to write about Berkshire Hathaway than Enron," he says.

The culture and philosophy he explores in the book are an anomaly among large U.S. corporations, he says. "It is more like what is found in smaller business partnerships. Berkshire shareholders think of themselves as owners or partners, while managers see their role as stewards," he says. "Throughout the organization, overhead is kept low, loyalty is prized, individual autonomy promoted, entrepreneurship stimulated and capital allocated shrewdly."

And where others buy companies to retool and offload them, Berkshire hangs on. Whether its business model works is plainly clear, but Mr. Cunningham sets out to unravel how the model works and whether Berkshire could continue without the man who built it.



Berkshire Beyond Buffett: The Enduring Value of Values (Columbia Business School Publishing, 2014) Lawrence A. Cunningham



Democracy's Double-Edged Sword: How Internet Use Changes Citizens' Views of Their Government (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2014)

Catie Snow Bailard

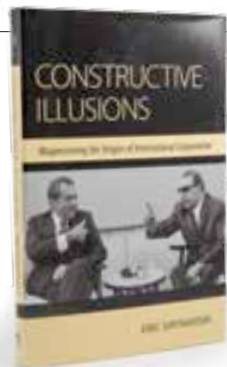
The sort of attention that has addressed how the Internet facilitates political protests hasn't focused on the extent to which the web makes its users want to act politically to begin with, writes Dr. Bailard, an assistant professor of media and public affairs. After analyzing the Internet's "mirror-holding" and "window-opening" properties, she writes that the web "meaningfully alters not only the quality and range of information but also the criteria through which individuals evaluate their governments."



Northern Men With Southern Loyalties: The Democratic Party and the Sectional Crisis (Cornell University Press, 2014)

Michael Todd Landis, PhD '11

It simply won't do any longer to think of the Civil War in terms of a clean break between the North and the South over slavery, writes Dr. Landis, an assistant history professor at Tarleton State University in Texas. Among the Northern Democratic leadership in the 1850s were "doughfaces," who at once sought to please the party's Southern bosses and to purge its ranks of anti-slavery members. They were, Dr. Landis observes, "anti-democratic to the core."



Constructive Illusions: Misperceiving the Origins of International Cooperation (Cornell University Press, 2014)

Eric Grynaviski

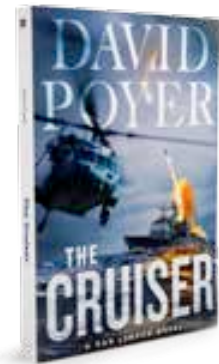
Challenging the idea that diplomacy might be best when parties truly understand one another, Dr. Grynaviski, an assistant professor of political science and international affairs, writes that cooperation often is likeliest when nations erroneously feel they have much in common.



Back Channel to Cuba: The Hidden History of Negotiations Between Washington and Havana (University of North Carolina Press, 2015)

William M. LeoGrande and Peter Kornbluh

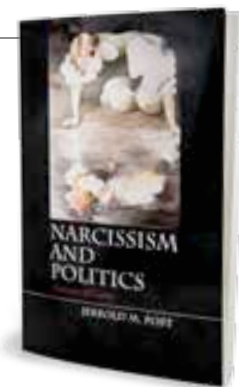
The recent warming of U.S.-Cuba relations may seem like a complete policy reversal, but "every president since Eisenhower has engaged in some form of dialogue with Castro and his representatives," write Dr. LeoGrande and Mr. Kornbluh, a senior analyst at GW's National Security Archive. One hushed meeting between Washington and Havana even took place on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, they write in their book, which draws upon a trove of declassified documents.



The Cruiser: A Dan Lenson Novel (St. Martin's Press, 2014)

David Poyer, MA '86

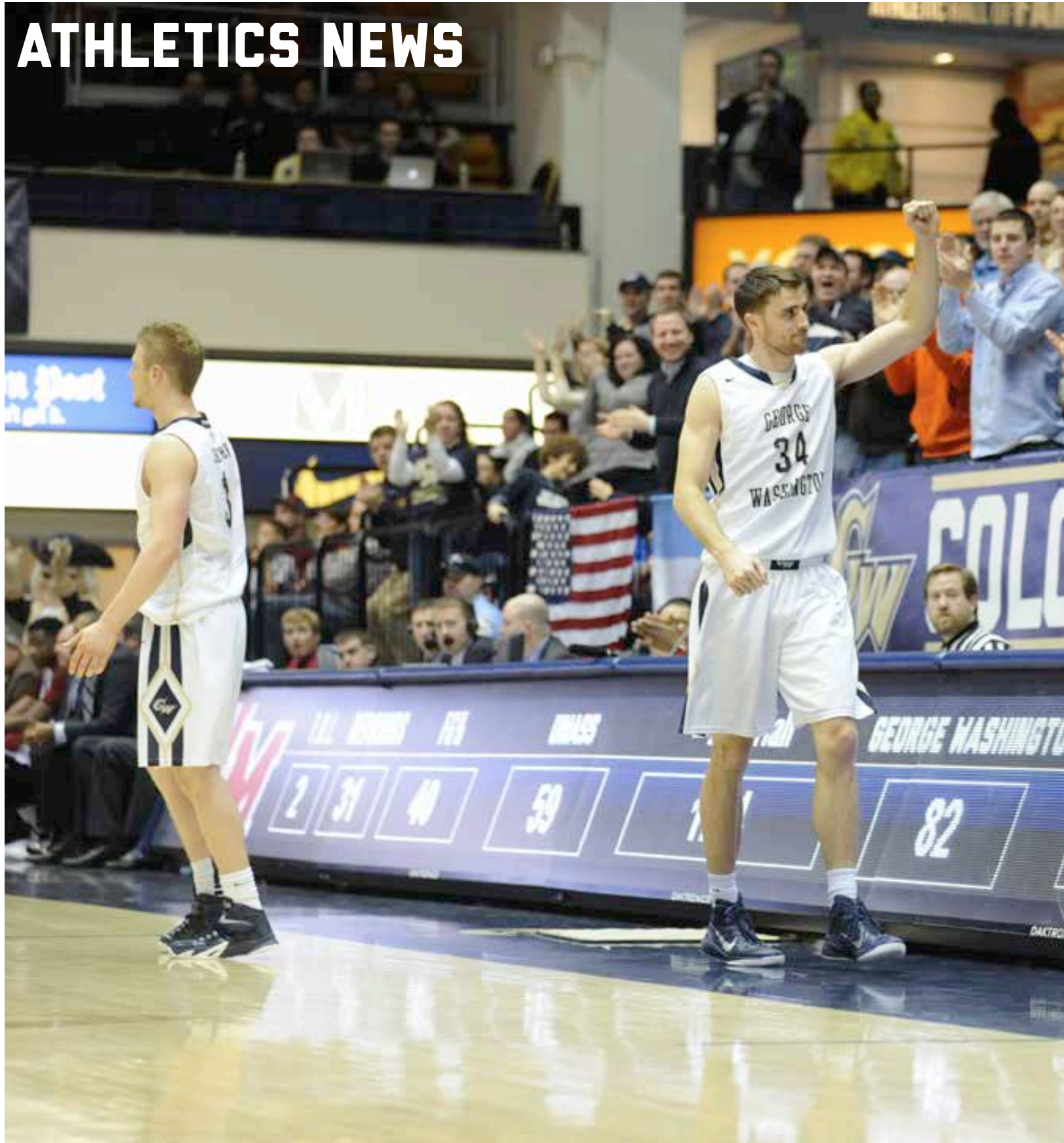
In this novel, the 14th in a series that follows fictional GW alumnus and Naval Capt. Dan Lenson, *real* GW alumnus and retired Naval officer Mr. Poyer sends the hero on a clean-up mission after a warship with some valuable—and highly classified—cargo runs aground off the Italian coast.



Narcissism and Politics: Dreams of Glory (Cambridge University Press, 2015)

Jerrold M. Post

Narcissus, of Greek mythological notoriety for falling fatally in love with his own reflection, epitomizes the Facebook-addicted "me generation." The "apparent epidemic of narcissism" doesn't infect all politicians, writes Dr. Post, GW professor of political psychology, but the "arena of public service and its limelight is particularly attractive, indeed irresistible, to individuals with narcissistic propensities." 📖



Senior John Kopriva walks off the Smith Center court for the last time in March.



MEN'S BASKETBALL

Test Tubes and Free Throws

When John Kopriva walked into class, a professor later admitted to him, she had rolled her eyes at the 6-foot-8 Colonials basketball team forward.

"I probably had a GW hat and sweats on. And she's kind of like, 'What's this kid doing in organic chemistry?'" the Milwaukee native and GW senior says, ahead of graduation in May.

The jock stereotype dissolved when his grades came in.

The Academic All-American—the 10th ever for the men's basketball team—was poised to graduate as a chemistry major with a GPA better than 3.9, and he was named a 2015 Columbian College of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Scholar, earning him a speaking spot at

the CCAS graduation celebration.

At the same time, Mr. Kopriva posted his best season as a Colonial, starting all 35 games. He averaged career bests of 6.7 points on 49 percent shooting, 44 percent behind the arc and 3.7 rebounds, along with 29 blocks. He holds the program record for games played, with 128.

When told that three-year team captains and chemistry majors seem to mix like oil and water, Mr. Kopriva, who is applying to medical school with an interest in orthopedic surgery, doesn't buy it. He sees a logical blend to his academic and athletic pursuits.

"The sciences made a lot more sense to me than reading a full-length novel and writing a book report," he says. "Just being in sports and hanging around the athletic training room all the time, I really became interested the study of biomechanics and injury prevention."

—Menachem Wecker, MA '09

"Just being in sports and hanging around the athletic training room all the time, I really became interested the study of biomechanics and injury prevention."



COURT: GW ATHLETICS COMMUNICATIONS / KOPRIVA: WILLIAM ATKINS



Jonquel Jones plays in March at the team's first NCAA Tournament game since 2008, after the team won the A10 Championship.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

POY Jones Sparks Title Season

As the GW women's basketball team bus pulled up at an elementary school in Freeport, Bahamas, the chants of "JJ! JJ!" could be heard from the crowd of students gathered on the blacktop. The Colonials were on Grand Bahama Island over Thanksgiving break for the annual Junkanoo Jam tournament, and the children had come out to see their hometown hero, GW's Jonquel Jones.

Ms. Jones drew a capacity crowd for both of GW's games in the tournament, as the Colonials defeated N.C. State and Purdue—both coming off NCAA Tournament appearances—en route to the Junkanoo Jam Freeport Division title, and MVP honors for Ms. Jones.

It was the start of something special for the junior forward and the Colonials. Ms. Jones won her first of seven Atlantic 10 Player-of-the-Week awards, matching the second most in conference history, and GW won its second and third games in a row on its way to a 19-game winning streak and a top-20 national ranking.

Since the moment she set foot on the Charles E. Smith Center

court with the Colonials, after transferring from Clemson eight games into her college career, Ms. Jones has been perhaps the most dominant player in the Atlantic 10. In March, she was named A-10 Player of the Year and Defensive Player of the Year—just the fourth time in conference history a player has won both awards in the same season—while leading GW on the winningest campaign in program history.

The Colonials went 29-4, setting a program record for wins and winning percentage, and steamrolled through the Atlantic 10 to a 15-1 mark. Along the way, the Colonials ended the nation's longest home winning streak when they beat Dayton on Jan. 4, knocked off defending A-10 champion Fordham at home and twice trounced "Revolutionary Rival" George Mason.

GW's second win over the Patriots locked up the Atlantic 10 regular-season title outright, and the Colonials cut down the nets at the Smith Center for the first time since 2008.

As the No. 1 seed in the Atlantic 10 Championship, GW defeated Saint Louis then Fordham and, finally, Dayton with a second-half run fueled by Ms. Jones. She was named the tournament's Most Outstanding Player as the Colonials won their first league title since 2003.

Third-season head coach

Jonathan Tsipis, the Atlantic 10 Coach of the Year, had orchestrated the turnaround from a group that won just 11 games in 2011-12, the year before he arrived, to a team that earned the program's first NCAA Tournament berth in seven years.

In addition to Ms. Jones, sophomore forward Caira Washington, the 2014 Atlantic 10 Rookie of the Year, was named to the A-10 All-Conference First Team, and freshman forward Kelli Prange was selected to the All-Rookie Team.

Ms. Jones, meanwhile, added a pair of All-America honorable mentions from the Associated Press and Women's Basketball Coaches Association to her list of accolades, which also included a spot on the midseason watch list for the Naismith Trophy, which is given to the national player of the year.

"She's not somebody that likes to be singled out. She wants to make sure that the team's success is always ahead of her individual," Mr. Tsipis says. "There's just nobody else like her in the league and how she's able to impact the game at both ends of the court."

GYMNASTICS

Banner Year In and out of Competition

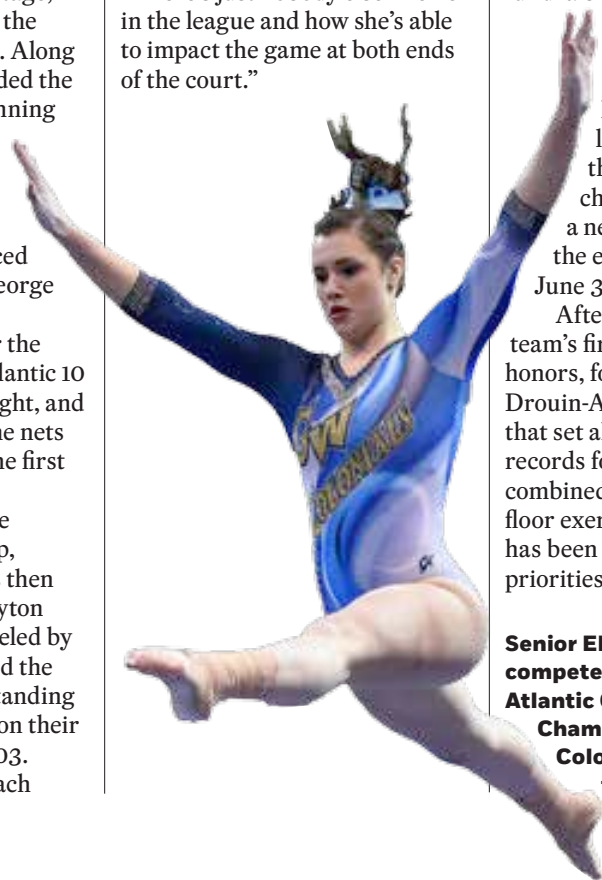
It's become cliché for athletes to give 110 percent. But GW gymnastics alumni, parents and teammates have given more than 300 percent this year in a fundraising drive that supports the team and honors the longest-serving coach in GW history.

A three-time NCAA Regional Coach of the Year, Margie Foster-Cunningham has been the anchor of the gymnastics team for 30 seasons. This year was arguably Ms. Foster-Cunningham's finest to date, as she guided the Colonials to their first-ever East Atlantic Gymnastics League Championship and to NCAA Regional competition for the first time since 2002.

The stellar season coincided with the Department of Athletics and Recreation's "30 for 30" fundraising effort, which had set a goal of raising \$30,000 to support the gymnastics team. More than \$90,000 later, supporters left that initial goal in the chalk dust, and have set a new goal of \$100,000 by the end of the fiscal year, June 30.

After a season that saw the team's first-ever All-America honors, for freshman Cami Drouin-Allaire on vault, and that set all-time program records for overall team score, combined vault score and total floor exercise score, the bar has been raised. New goals and priorities include expanding the

Senior Elana Corcoran competes at the East Atlantic Gymnastics League Championships, which the Colonials this year won for the first time.



team's travel budget, in order to compete against the best teams in the nation, and to embark on a training trip to Australia in 2016.

"We do a great job at GW teaching our student-athletes that they have the power to make a difference," says Ms. Foster-Cunningham. "The success of the GW gymnastics fundraising challenge is a result of [that] education ... I am honored and proud to be affiliated with a group that is so generous and so focused on the continued success of the GW gymnastics program."

For many, the gift is as much about supporting gymnastics as it is about honoring the program's cornerstone, who has helped shape the lives of GW athletes for three decades.

"Margie has a special talent for instilling confidence and promoting excellence on her team," says donor and former gymnast Meena Lakdawala-Flynn, BA '99. "Whether through hard work, skill development or an encouraging word, she made all of us better: better gymnasts, better teammates, better people."

For more on supporting the gymnastics program, visit go.gwu.edu/30for30.

MEN'S TENNIS

Five Years, Four Crowns

The GW men's tennis team claimed the Atlantic 10 conference championship in April, setting up a dynastic decade in which the team has claimed the A-10 crown in four of the past five seasons.

Armed with five freshmen, a junior transfer and just three returning student-athletes for the 2014-15 season, head coach Greg Munoz put his squad through one of the most challenging spring schedules to date, taking on seven nationally



The sailing team's new donor-funded fleet of 18 boats was dedicated in March.

ranked opponents during the regular season.

The Colonials pushed through their schedule and picked up key regular-season home wins over No. 65 DePaul and No. 61 UNC-Wilmington to give the Buff and Blue a perfect 5-0 record at home.

The Colonials entered the Atlantic 10 Championship as the No. 4 seed and carried their momentum throughout the tournament, defeating fifth-seeded Dayton and top-seeded Richmond to reach the finals for the sixth consecutive season, where the squad met rival VCU, the No. 2 seed, for the third straight year. The Colonials downed VCU to become back-to-back champions and to claim their fourth-ever berth in the NCAA Team Championship. The team wrapped up its season after falling in the first round to No. 12 Wake Forest.

The team's lone senior, Francisco Dias, graduated as GW's winningest singles player, notching 87 wins, breaking a record that had stood since 1979.

"We have grown so much as a program after winning [in 2011] our first A-10 title since 1979," Mr. Munoz says. "We have been ranked as high as No. 45 in the nation, and we will continue to use that as the standard for us

to surpass. We are a top-40 level program, and we look forward to proving that in the years to come."

SAILING

After Gust Of Support, Fleet Sails

The temperature was in the teens and there were several inches of snow on the ground, but it might as well have been sunny with a breeze at the back of GW's nascent sailing team as the group gathered to dedicate a new fleet of 18 boats on a frigid March day.

It was "an absolute dream come true" for the team, head coach John Pearce said as he thanked supporters of the "Raise High the Sails" campaign, which raised more than \$180,000 for the boats. "Big contributions, small contributions, it all came together in this beautiful fleet of boats, which puts us at a different level than where we were before."

James Merow, AA '51, BA '53, JD '56, a star sailor who competed in several national championships for GW in the

1950s, read the commissioning orders from GW President Steven Knapp, including an instruction to "sail these new vessels to continuous victory."

The program, which is in just its third season as a varsity sport at GW, achieved its first top-20 national ranking in 2014 and a No. 15 women's ranking in 2015.

"These boats allow the current students to compete at a level previously only dreamt of; we can host regattas and actually have the whole team on the water at once," said GW senior and captain Alex Hitchcock. "Beyond being a symbol of how far the team has come, it signifies how far we are willing to go to be at the top."

Will Ricketson, BA '11, a member of the GW Athletics Board of Advisors, a Sailing Club alumnus and a donor to the fundraising campaign, said the sailing program is a "uniquely GW success story. This whole adventure started with a determined group of undergraduates that decided to take on the best teams in the country," he said. "GW has always been a place that rewards entrepreneurialism, ingenuity and effort, and the sailing team has consistently demonstrated these qualities over the past few years." GW

RESEARCH NEWS



FLUID DYNAMICS

Amazing Grace

In sea lions, engineers search for mechanisms behind expert swimming

When Megan Leftwich took her children to the zoo two years ago to see the sea lions, which slipped through twists and flips like underwater ballerinas, it

was Dr. Leftwich who came away with a head full of wonder.

“I just thought, ‘Man, those are amazing swimmers.’ I really wanted to study them,” says Dr. Leftwich, a fluid dynamics researcher in the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering.

The marine mammals are not only lithe swimmers, they’re also capable of reaching 25 miles per hour. And they move through water unlike any other animals on Earth.

While fish and other aquatic mammals thrust forward with their tails or caudal fins, sea

lions rely on their fore flippers, which are analogous to human arms. They sweep downward, clap their large flippers into their bodies and glide forward, producing jet propulsion. Sea lions are able to cruise the length of an Olympic-size pool with a single clap.

Other animals that use jets to propel forward, like octopuses and squid, cannot sustain high speeds or manipulate their bodies with the same agility. Sea lions also produce a barely traceable wake in the water, differing significantly from other swimming mammals.

“I want to know, what is the paradigm for successful swimming?” Dr. Leftwich says.

To find out the science behind the sea lions’ swimming mechanisms, Dr. Leftwich returned to the Smithsonian’s National Zoo. As part of an ongoing research partnership, her team visits California sea lions and uses high-definition video cameras to digitize the unique motions of their flippers.

After analyzing the videos, Dr. Leftwich and postdoctoral scientist Chen Friedman compare differences in the sea lions’ claps and body maneuvers in order to highlight correlations in features such as angular velocity and flipper curvature.

Observing zoo animals does, however, come with limitations: It does not allow the researchers to analyze how the flipper affects the movement of the water.

To compensate for that, students and researchers in Dr. Leftwich’s lab are working on a robotic flipper that mimics the sea lions’ motion. Once it’s complete, they will send it through a lab-length water tunnel and chart the water’s movement, as well as the forces it takes for a sea lion to move its knuckles, wrists and elbows. (Sea lions’ front flippers have all the skeletal elements of land mammals.)

When one of the zoo’s

sea lions died last year, the lab obtained her flipper. Josh Waldron, one of six undergraduate students working in Dr. Leftwich’s lab, spent last summer taking high-resolution images of the flipper’s skin samples at the micro-scale, using a high-powered scanning electron microscope.

“One really interesting thing we found when we looked at the images is that different parts of the flipper have varying amounts of fur and smoothness,” says Mr. Waldron, a junior studying mechanical and aerospace engineering. “We want to try and uncover how the sea lion’s hair and skin play a role in its hydrodynamics to give it such an advantage when it does turns in water.”

To help Mr. Waldron prepare to image the sea lion samples, he enlisted the aid of researchers in engineering professor Grace Zhang’s lab, where new 3-D printing techniques are being used to create custom-designed tissue substitutes.

“Most people in the Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering Department don’t handle sea lion tissue, oddly enough,” he says. “So there was a lot of inter-departmental collaboration to help one undergraduate research student.”

One potential application for better understanding these highly maneuverable, difficult-to-trace mammals is to inform the design of underwater vehicles, such as the autonomous ones used by the Navy for disarming underwater bombs.

But Dr. Leftwich is hesitant to say that her research is confined to solutions for any one problem.

“I feel like if we don’t know all of the potential applications, that’s really a good thing,” she says. “Often problems are solved by accident because of investigating some fundamental phenomenon in and of itself.”

—Lauren Ingeno

BUSINESS

After NFL, Many Face Bankruptcy

A new study of bankruptcy rates among NFL players finds that many are going broke in retirement, and the problem may be a lack of financial planning.

In the report, released in April by the National Bureau of Economic Research, GW financial literacy expert Annamaria Lusardi and researchers at the California Institute of Technology and the University of Washington used court records, news reports and other public documents to track 2,016 players drafted by NFL teams from 1996 to 2003. Nearly 2 percent were bankrupt within two years of retirement. Fifteen percent had filed for bankruptcy within 12 years of playing their final NFL game.

“The reality is these people have earned enough to not have to work for the rest of their lives,” says Dr. Lusardi, the Denit Trust Chair of Economics and Accountancy at the School of Business. “But they go bankrupt. And they don’t go bankrupt 20 years down the road. It happens right away.”

The traditional life-cycle model of salary and savings—a gradual increase in income over decades, coupled with long-term planning—is put to an extreme test, she says, when workers earn a large amount of their lifetime income in a short burst and at a young age.

The median earnings of the players in the report was \$3.2 million (in 2000 dollars),



and the average length of an NFL career is six years for a player who makes a club’s opening-day roster, according to the league.

Length of career and total earnings aren’t predictive of when, or how frequently, players will go bankrupt, the researchers found.

“That’s quite striking, and I think this kind of hints at this lack of financial sophistication,” Dr. Lusardi says.

“The players who have long careers and higher incomes are the ones we don’t expect to go bankrupt.

But they do, and they do at the same rate as the others. That’s an indication that the planning is not there.”

Where the money goes depends on the player. But bad real estate or entrepreneurial investments are common catalysts for financial problems among ex-athletes, she says.

For that group, she says, “that next stage of life is very long, and so managing money is a more complex decision. They don’t realize it’s enough for a lifetime if it’s properly managed.”

—James Irwin

MEDICINE

Study Finds New Drug to Treat Shock

License agreement signed, FDA bumps drug testing to Phase III clinical trial

A GW doctor has discovered a new use for a drug that could mean the difference between life and death for thousands of

patients each year.

In a 20-person clinical trial conducted at GW Hospital’s Intensive Care Unit in 2014, professor Lakhmir Chawla and his team used angiotensin II, a peptide hormone, as a successful treatment for distributive shock—a life-threatening medical condition that occurs when a patient’s blood pressure plummets.

When patients go into this type of shock after a bacterial infection, allergic reaction or severe accident, doctors attempt to raise their blood pressure using either catecholamines or vasopressin therapy. But some critically ill patients do not respond to these drugs, which, in high doses, can cause side effects, including permanent damage to the heart.

Angiotensin II has the potential to save patients who don’t respond to existing treatments.

“In 1940, if you had a headache, the only choice you had was aspirin. Twenty years later, you could take Tylenol. Now, you can take ibuprofen,” says Dr. Chawla, an associate

professor of anesthesiology and critical care medicine in the School of Medicine and Health Sciences. “I would argue that having a third option is a big deal. People have different issues with different drugs.”

In addition, catecholamines, vasopressin and angiotensin are natural peptides produced by the human body that all work together to increase blood pressure. Dr. Chawla hopes that using these drugs together will improve their effectiveness and reduce the overall toxicity of any one treatment.

After the clinical trial, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration gave approval for the researchers

to bypass Phase II testing and move into Phase III, which could cut years from the time it will take to market the drug.

Now GW has entered into a license agreement with California-based La Jolla Pharmaceutical for GW intellectual property rights covering the use of angiotensin II to treat patients with hypotension and shock. In the Phase III trial, La Jolla will test the drug on 300 patients at up to 40 U.S. hospitals to confirm its effectiveness and monitor side effects.

Vice President for Research Leo Chalupa says he is “cautiously optimistic” that the drug soon will be available in hospitals, noting that roadblocks could arise between Phase III clinical trials and manufacturing. If the drug is marketed, Dr. Chalupa says, he believes it will be a “tipping point” for the university.

“Not only would it bring

in substantial income to the inventor, university and the school, but it would also be a tremendous boost to other faculty who may realize that they, too, have invented something with

If the drug is marketed, Dr. Chalupa says, he believes it will be a “tipping point” for GW.

commercial potential,” he says. “Success breeds success.”

Dr. Chawla hopes that, in addition to treating hypotension, the Phase III clinical trials will show that the drug improves survival rates for patients. But that is often difficult to prove in a clinical study.

“We know that many of the supportive therapies that we use in medicine are important, but it is very hard to directly attribute them to a mortality benefit,” he says. “Our primary goal is to demonstrate that angiotensin II is safe and can give clinicians another tool in the toolbox. If it improves survival, that’s a grand slam.” —Lauren Ingono



FIVE YEARS LATER I N HAITI

// STORY AND PHOTOS BY B. D. COLLEN, BA '73 //

Half a decade after a catastrophic earthquake, a Pulitzer Prize winner finds that life in the beleaguered nation goes on, as it always has.



At just past 10 on a morning in early January, it's already about 90 degrees in a dusty schoolyard a few miles out of Thomonde, on Haiti's Central Plateau, one of the poorest regions in the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere. The glaring white Caribbean sun beats down on a faded sea-green, concrete schoolhouse, which is empty because there are no classes today. Haitians this week are marking the fifth anniversary of the devastating earthquake that killed more than 220,000 people, injured another 300,000 and left more than a million homeless.

Nine George Washington University nursing students and two faculty members climb out of the four-wheel-drive vehicles that have jounced them over nine miles of road that felt like 50. They're lugging bags of medical basics—from gauze pads and Band-Aids to a bathroom scale for patient weigh-ins and blood pressure cuffs—ubiquitous stethoscopes draped around their necks, their own water bottles in hand.

It's day two of a weeklong medical support trip, and the group is fresh off of yesterday's taste-of-Haitian-reality grand tour: a ride over rocky ruts called a road to a field outside Thomonde for a brief clinic session under a tree; a tour of the clinic run by their host, the nonprofit Project Medishare, in a little town called LeHoye not far from the border with the Dominican Republic; and a pass through the tropical Times Square on New Year's Eve that is market day in LeHoye.

It takes about 30 minutes for the group to transform the dark and empty schoolhouse into the closest thing to a medical facility most of the residents here are ever likely to see. One steel-roofed concrete room becomes a triage, one is a pediatric clinic and another is a facility for adults.

Even before the setup work is done, a long line of patients forms, ranging in age from a few months old to elderly, standing politely waiting to be examined.

Tell people in the United States that you've recently been to Haiti and while they

may have a sense of the nation's problems, often they don't understand the tangle of geography, natural disasters and the long, haunting shadow of history that makes Haiti so different from the more prosperous Dominican Republic, the nation with which it shares the island of Hispaniola.

Haiti sits on the western end of the island, where some of the mountains are 2,000 feet higher than the tallest peak in the Appalachians, blocking the winds and thus the rains that make the Dominican Republic far more fertile. Extensive deforestation for fuel and agriculture, dating back to the nation's days as the world's leading sugar producer and France's richest colony, has eroded the soil and thinned the ecosystem.

After a dozen years of fighting, Haiti's enslaved population threw out the French in 1803, establishing an independent nation on Jan. 1, 1804. World powers recoiled at the specter of the world's only successful slave revolt. Neither Britain, France, nor the young United States, not even the Vatican, would recognize the independent republic, severely limiting Haiti's access to world trade.

Refusing to return as workers to the plantations on which they had been laboring, former slaves fled to remote areas of the countryside, establishing small farms and family-based communities. They lived as disconnected as they could from the central government, and two societies developed: a rural, agrarian one, consisting of the great mass of the population, and an urban upper









LEFT Professor of Nursing Joyce Pulcini

“What we hope to get out of [these trips] is that we were providing a medical mission and doing sustainable work. But I think the education [is] more sustainable than the clinics.” —PROFESSOR OF NURSING JOYCE PULCINI



Haiti



The pop-up clinics established by the group drew lines of patiently waiting people, young and old, often in Sunday best. But the team's added efforts to teach health care workers and the public—in presentations on topics that ranged from umbilical cord care to tooth-brushing—may prove even more enduring.



and middle class that controlled almost every aspect of life in the nation.

World powers did come to recognize Haiti's sovereignty: France as early as 1825 (sources vary), after sailing warships into Port-au-Prince and demanding a large sum to be paid over a half-century; Britain a little more than a decade later; and the United States not until 1862.

That relationship would become even further complicated. From 1915 to 1934, Haiti was occupied by U.S. Marines, sent by a government ostensibly to stabilize the spiraling nation, though the occupation—and its political manipulations and racist undertones—actually did much to protect and expand American influence there.

Couple all that with more than 200 years of roiling political instability, civil war and widespread poverty, and it is inevitable that Haiti today would be struggling.

Throw in regular battering by hurricanes, to say nothing of earthquakes, and it's a wonder that the Haitians are doing as well as they are. Nor is it surprising that Haitian life expectancy is about 62 years, or that the adult literacy rate—around 49 percent—is among the world's lowest, or that few Haitians have access to health care and safe water. One in five children under 5 years old has stunted growth, and 1 in 13 die before reaching that age.

Were it not for the presence of thousands of nongovernmental organizations—so many it's been nicknamed the Republic of NGOs—and were it not for the incredible resilience of the Haitian people, the reality of Haiti would be far more grim than it is.

The GW group is here with Project Medishare, one of the many organizations working to keep this island nation from sinking under the weight of hardship.

Based at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, Project Medishare came to Haiti in 1994, long before the NGO influx that followed the 2010 earthquake, and runs programs in Hospital Bernard Mevs, in Port-au-Prince, and here on the Central Plateau, where it works with the Haitian government and other medical NGOs to provide rural health care.

One of its efforts involves bringing groups of nursing, medical school and public health students and professors from nine U.S. universities, including GW, which has been sending teams to Haiti for more than a decade.

The faculty members on this trip have few illusions.

"What we hope to get out of [these trips] is that we were providing a medical mission and doing sustainable work," says Professor of Nursing Joyce Pulcini, the leader of the

group. "But I think the education [is] more sustainable than the clinics," she says.

On past trips, students seemed to return disillusioned. "They ask, 'What did we really do? We give out medications for 30 days and then there's no follow-up. We didn't do harm, but ...'"

The added work to educate patients and first-line health workers helps to buffer that. Medical aid workers will leave, but the knowledge will stay, and has the potential to spread. On this trip, that has made a difference for the students, she says.

Later on that second day, as the light fades behind palms and other tropical foliage, and a breeze keeps the evening mosquito-free, the group gathers under the portico of the Project Medishare guesthouse in Thomonde with eight of the organization's Haitian health care workers. This evening, and on three other evenings this week, students give presentations—on anemia in pregnancy, on Ebola, on proper umbilical cord care and on hypertension. They work to dispel myths and misinformation to which some of the Haitian health care workers cling.

Later in the week, the students will offer presentations at a community gathering, complete with demonstrations, to teach the value and technique of such basics as proper hand washing and tooth brushing.

Karen Dawn, an assistant clinical professor of nursing who is on her fourth trip to Haiti, says the faculty has worked closely with Project Medishare over the years to continuously adjust the work of the students based on needs and maximizing impact.

"Over the past two January nursing trips, we've identified a need for sustainable interventions geared towards several repeated health issues that we see in these communities: hypertension in the adults, diarrheal diseases in the children, oral care, umbilical cord care and nutrition, just to name a few," Dr. Dawn says.

The following afternoon, after a four-hour clinic session in a rude wooden church in a rural area near Thomonde, the students gather outside their guesthouse to debrief.

"What were today's high points, and what could we do better?" Dr. Pulcini asks.

"I think my low point was the language [barrier]," says undergraduate nursing student Tiffani Houston, "not being able to communicate as well as I wanted to."

"One high was how well we all worked together," says Dayna Leis, another undergraduate. But she agreed that the need for more translators was an obstacle.

Dr. Dawn had spent part of the afternoon's clinic session dealing with

another of the inescapable conundrums facing aid workers the world over.

For most of the session, an elderly woman in Sunday best—like nearly all the clinic patients—lay in obvious distress, alone on a cotton quilt spread in a shady area behind the church. Dr. Dawn found herself repeatedly glancing at the woman, who was visible through the open rear door of the church. Finally she could stand it no longer, and left the students to go tend to the woman on the quilt. She returned to the makeshift clinic after a while, sitting down on a bench, shaking her head.

"She looks to be in her 70s, but you really can't tell," Dr. Dawn tells me, "and she's obviously in respiratory distress. She belongs in the hospital. Her family is trying to figure out how to help her; it's very complicated for them."

Dr. Dawn explains that she found a nephew of the woman's, who said that the family had the \$2.40 needed to have her taken to the Partners In Health hospital in Cange, about 30 minutes away, by one of the region's ubiquitous motorcycle taxis. But, she says, they didn't have the money to have her admitted to the hospital.

Plus, Dr. Dawn says, in Haiti families are expected to pay for food for hospital patients, and the family can't afford it.

"I really don't know what to do," she says, clearly troubled. "I can easily give them the money, but then what?"

If she did, she wonders, "the next time someone here gets sick will people just wait for them to get sicker, thinking that some foreigner will come along and pay for the care they need? What does that do to the natural balance of things here?"

She gets up and goes back to talk with the woman's nephew.

When Dr. Dawn returns, she looks somewhat relieved, but still perplexed. "I gave them the money," she says, "and the family has arranged for her to get a ride to the hospital. She'll be taken care of. But I wish I knew that I've done the right thing," she says.

And so it goes, countless times each day, a short two-hour plane ride from Miami, and a world away. ☐

B. D. Colen, BA '73, who teaches documentary photography and science writing at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, spent 27 years at The Washington Post and Newsday, where he shared a 1984 Pulitzer Prize for general local reporting. This was his second trip to Haiti. To see more of his photography, visit <http://socialdocumentary.net/photographer/bdcolen>.

◀ B. D. Colen discusses the story behind the photos at gwmagazine.com.

Karen Dawn, an assistant clinical professor of nursing

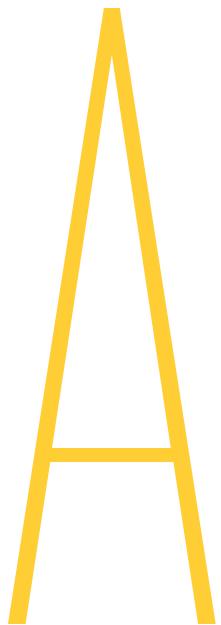


PROMISE KEEPER

Through his program Gideon's Promise, MacArthur Fellow

Jonathan Rapping, JD '95, is helping the government fulfill its duty to stand up for the indigent accused.

// By Tony Rehagen



Anna Kurien wasn't sure she could keep doing this job. She had joined the Fulton County Public Defender's Office fresh out of law school in 2008 and dedicated four years to representing the indigent in Atlanta. But this was her first murder trial—and she had lost. She had no idea how she was going to go back into that courtroom. For two days, she couldn't even get out of bed.

Ms. Kurien felt that her client's case was clearly self-defense. She spent months not only piecing together events, but getting to know the accused and his family, gradually painting the portrait of a hardworking man who was trying to protect himself. But he was an undocumented immigrant, a Latino, and it seemed like that was all the jury, the prosecutor, even the judge could see.

"They didn't care about him," Ms. Kurien says of the 2012 case. "They didn't think of him as human."

Now he faced a mandatory sentence of life in prison, while Ms. Kurien faced the task of making his wife and child understand that they would never see their husband and father out from behind bars again. The stepson had given Ms. Kurien a letter, written in the broad, crooked pencil strokes of a 7-year-old, to read to the judge at the sentencing. *Please bring my Daddy home. I miss my Daddy.*

It would have been easy to just quit, to walk away and apply her education to a less daunting aspect of the law. It might have been easier still to fold up that child's letter and stuff it deep down in her briefcase, to give in to the exasperation felt by overworked, under-resourced and unappreciated public defenders across the nation, and to stop living and dying with each case. "I didn't think I had the strength to face that loss again," she says.

She found fortitude in the teachings of

Jonathan Rapping. Ms. Kurien had first met Mr. Rapping, or "Rap" as he likes to be called, in 2006, when she was an intern at a neighboring public defender's office and he was a trainer for the Georgia Public Defender Standards Council.

More than just teaching courtroom procedure and caseload management, Mr. Rapping had emphasized the public defender's role in standing up for the humanity in their clients, who are often in the worst trouble of their lives with no one else to turn to. *As a society, we have throw-away people*, she remembers him saying. *If you want true justice, you must remind the system that these are human beings.*

"Rap was like a small, bald, Jewish Jesus," Ms. Kurien says. "He was dedicated to the church of public defense."

The following year, Mr. Rapping started what would become Gideon's Promise, an organization devoted to that ideal, work that would eventually win him a MacArthur Fellowship, the so-called genius grant. In 2010, Ms. Kurien was enrolled in the Gideon's Promise training program when Mr. Rapping pulled her aside and told her she was "born for this."

"I clung to those words," she says. She also held on to something else Mr. Rapping had preached: "The only way to accurately convey a person's humanity is to open yourself to their pain."

From the 24th floor of a nondescript high-rise, the

offices of Gideon's Promise look out over downtown Atlanta. The broad windows and their majestic view belie a workspace that is becoming more and more cramped to contain a budding staff. The baseboards of Mr. Rapping's modest office—he yielded the most spacious quarters to the executive director, who also happens to be his wife—are lined with framed news clippings, three-deep in some places; trophies that can't find room on the wall. Most of the clippings are brand new, fruit of the recent MacArthur grant. "We are growing," says the 48-year-old Mr. Rapping. "All of a sudden people are paying attention."

Mr. Rapping first became aware of *Gideon v. Wainwright*—the landmark 1963 case in which the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that states must provide counsel in criminal cases for defendants who cannot afford it—when he was a student at GW Law School in the mid-1990s. But at the time, it was just another chapter of a case law book.

"In law school, you learn laws in theory," he says. "But you can't understand how they are applied or the impact they have on people until you have a real-world setting."

He got that during his first summer, through an internship with the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia. Mr. Rapping's mother had been politically active in the 1970s, and he had grown up around attorneys who defended protesters. In his young mind, defense lawyers were superheroes who stood up against the powers of the state. He says that the lawyers he met at the D.C. public defender service lived up to that archetype.

"They were passionate and hardworking," Mr. Rapping says. "They spent their days defending the world."

He shadowed them for the next two years and saw how their work affected individuals, families and entire communities by helping people when their need was most dire.

He had heard the call.

"In the classroom we learned about the concept of justice," he says. "Most lawyers never think about it again. I didn't want to be one of those lawyers who realize that, as someone once said, 'the first thing I lost in law school was the reason that I came.'"

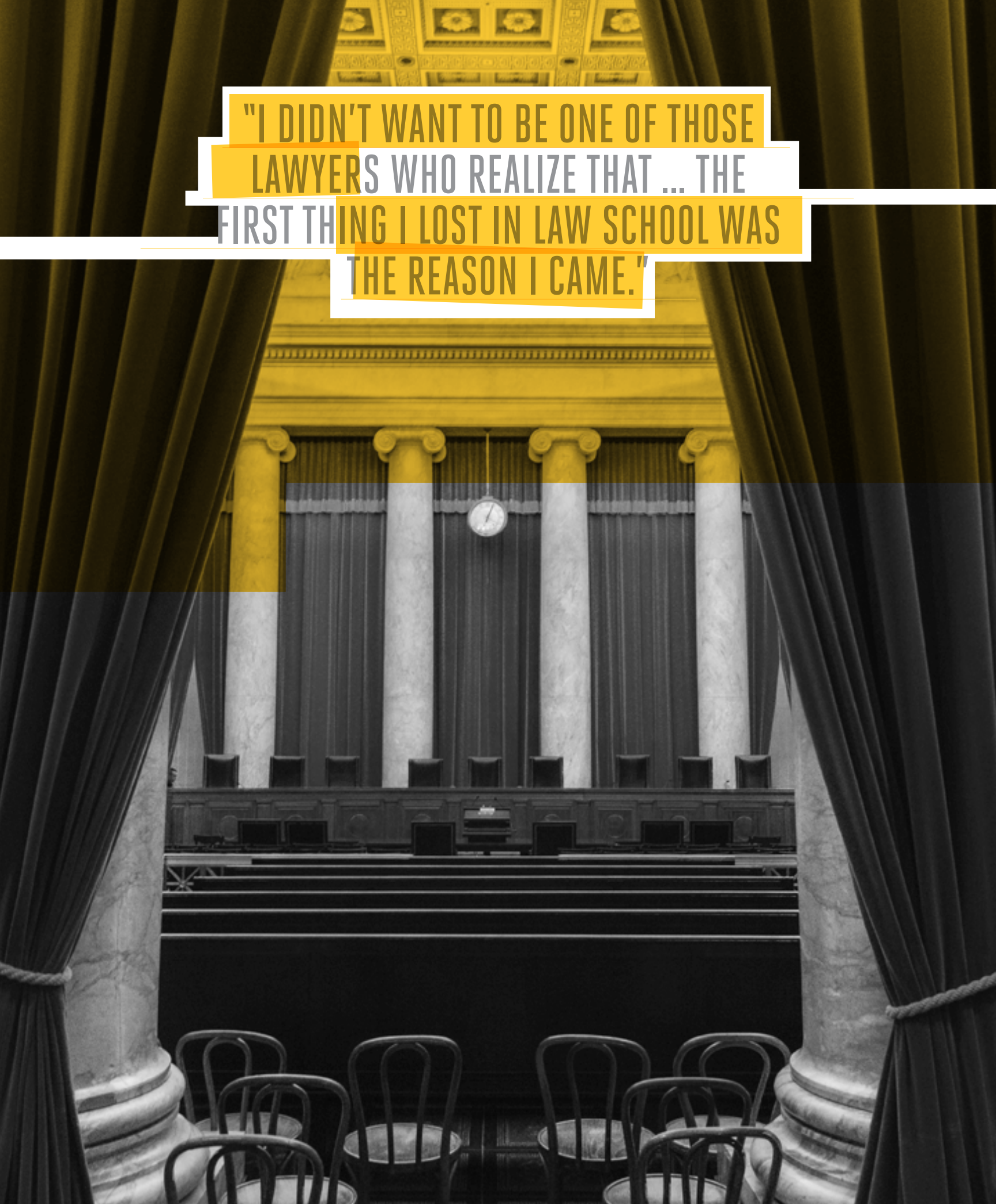
During his third year at GW Law, Mr. Rapping took part in the school's criminal defense clinic. There, he represented his own clients, and following the example of his mentors, he got to know them beyond their legal predicaments. He built relationships, and he saw that they all had similar stories: They were from poorer parts of D.C., had come through schools that didn't work, faced some sort of mental health challenge and had social needs that weren't being met.

"These are people we walk past on the street," he says. "But we're completely desensitized to their struggles. In many ways we ignore them." He was not going to ignore them anymore.

Upon graduating in 1995, he joined the public defender service as a staff attorney. The office—a federally funded, independent legal organization—stood out to many as a model, even as the city itself was struggling to shed its "murder capital" moniker. Mr. Rapping specialized in cases involving domestic abuse and sex offenses. He went on to become training director, reminding new attorneys that law was more than a code of rules and procedures.

In 2004, after nine years with the D.C. office, he received an offer to go to Georgia to set up a new statewide training program for public defenders. It was an opportunity to impart the ideals he had formed in the District to a state's worth of young attorneys. But when he arrived in the South, he soon realized that the supportive atmosphere and enthusiasm for public defense that he had taken for granted in D.C. was more the exception than the rule.

"I DIDN'T WANT TO BE ONE OF THOSE
LAWYERS WHO REALIZE THAT ... THE
FIRST THING I LOST IN LAW SCHOOL WAS
THE REASON I CAME."



SUPREME COURT OF Gideon v.

"YOUNG PUBLIC
DEFENDERS WERE
TALENTED AND
PASSIONATE, BUT
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BEATING THE PASSION
OUT OF THEM."

Ilham Askia had her own

preconceived notions about public defenders.

When she was 5, her father was arrested for an armed robbery he had committed years prior. Since then he had straightened out his life, met and married Ms. Askia's mother, converted to Islam, had three children with another on the way and opened a small fish market in Buffalo, N.Y. But the attorney appointed to represent him didn't seem interested in telling that story, showing the jury and the judge that he had changed. Ms. Askia's father was quickly convicted and sentenced to 10 years in Attica.

It broke the family apart. Her parents separated, and even after her father was released, he was never the same. Detached and unaffectionate, he lived alone in his mother's cinder-block basement until he violated probation and went back to jail. Ms. Askia's brother ran afoul of the law and wound up in prison himself. She doesn't blame the attorney for her father's actions,

nor those of her brother. But she knows how far and deep the cracks of one criminal case can run and the feeling of helplessness when the one person who was supposed to defend you fails to stand up.

So she was skeptical of Mr. Rapping when she first met him during a teaching externship in D.C. Outside of school, she was a server at a bar that Mr. Rapping and his colleagues frequented after work, and as the schoolteacher gradually got to know the young public defenders, she saw they were different—Mr. Rapping, especially.

After the two started dating, she noticed that he would talk about his clients like they were extended family members. He would drive to the jail and arrive as soon as the gates opened to meet with a defendant. He secured housing for some, clothing for others, day care for parents who couldn't bring their children to court. "He went far beyond the scope of what I thought was expected of a public defender," Ms. Askia says. "I wish somebody had done that for my dad."

Once she and Mr. Rapping were married, Ms. Askia became an informal part of that support network. She followed him south in 2004, when he accepted the offer to set up the training program in Georgia—where he would need her encouragement more than ever. "I learned about *Gideon v. Wainwright* in law school," says Mr. Rapping. "But I didn't appreciate it until I moved to the South."

The fledgling attorneys he encountered in Georgia were as smart, skilled and well intentioned as any he had worked with in Washington. But the system was broken.

Each state and even some individual counties have their own public defense systems, forming a patchwork of structures built from different blueprints and parts. Legislatures at the time were slashing budgets all over the country, leaving public defenders offices underpaid and understaffed. And while national standards established by the American Bar Association and a presidential commission recommended 150 felony cases per attorney each year, some public defenders in Georgia were facing upwards of 400—and as many as 900—cases total.

THE UNITED STATES

Wainwright

In the courtroom, Mr. Rapping says, it could feel at times like prosecutors and even judges were more focused on expediency than justice, and that public defenders were pressured not to gum up the works by rejecting plea deals and going to trial. Over a four-year period, one Georgia attorney saw 99 percent of his 1,500 cases result in a plea.

"I started to see systems that had come to accept the poor representation of poor people," Mr. Rapping says. "Young public defenders were talented and passionate, but the system was beating the passion out of them."

When Mr. Rapping was called on to help reform the New Orleans public defender's office in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, he saw the problem extended beyond Georgia. He returned to Atlanta in March 2007 and secured a grant from the Soros Foundation to start his own organization, dedicated to giving young public defenders the tools they need.

Ms. Askia quit teaching to join him as executive director, overseeing fundraising and staffing for the newly dubbed Southern Public Defender Training Center, later renamed Gideon's Promise.

The name wasn't scrapped

merely because it was a mouthful.

First, even though it was important to instruct young attorneys in verbal and procedural tactics, like challenging a confession, and on building graphics and multimedia into defense strategy, Mr. Rapping's organization was much more than a training center.

As much as technical support, these young attorneys and many more-experienced public defenders needed moral support in the struggle against the status quo, and Mr. Rapping's expanding roster of disciples provided that.

"Today you can send out an email asking for help," says Ms. Kurien, the Fulton County lawyer, "and within 30 minutes you have eight lawyers offering advice and even their phone numbers."

In fact, Mr. Rapping's movement was growing so rapidly that it could no longer be

contained by the name "Southern." Gideon's Promise was battling a nationwide problem.

In 2013, at an event marking the 50th anniversary of *Gideon v. Wainwright*, then-Attorney General Eric Holder noted that, across the country, public defense systems "exist in a state of crisis," which he called "unacceptable and unworthy of a legal system that stands as an example for all the world."

For Gideon's Promise, what had started as a three-year training program—a two-week "boot camp" and semiannual meetings—for 16 attorneys in two offices in Georgia and Louisiana had soon grown to include 300-plus lawyers in more than 40 offices across 15 states. The curriculum, primarily geared toward new public defenders who either apply on their own or are sent by their offices, also evolved into five programs aimed at different audiences, from leaders of public defender offices to students still in law school. Last year, Mr. Rapping struck a deal with the state of Maryland to apply the Gideon's Promise model to the entire statewide defender system.

Then last September, he was notified that he was one of 21 MacArthur Fellows—recipients of the coveted \$625,000 no-strings-attached grants from the MacArthur Foundation. The sudden windfall of cash, which comes in quarterly payments, certainly has been appreciated. And under the aura of the fellowship's spotlight, Gideon's Promise picked up 170 new donors in the six months that followed.

Mr. Rapping and company are now moving to a bigger Atlanta office to accommodate a growing staff, and Ms. Askia says the five-year plan is to have a freestanding training center that would host entire staffs from other states.

But for Mr. Rapping and Ms. Askia, the most basic aspects of the MacArthur grant far exceed coins in their coffers: The recognition validated their work and sacrifice. And with every interview they grant to newspapers, magazines and TV stations, their message is carried to new audiences—not just beleaguered public defenders who might be on the verge of giving up but also members of the general public, taxpayers who may not understand


or even acknowledge the problem until they or a loved one find themselves in trouble with nowhere else to turn.

"Gideon's Promise is about a cultural transformation," Mr. Rapping says. "Without that transformation, all the money in the world won't get us to equal justice."

Change is slow, even on an individual basis. Mr. Rapping teaches young attorneys that they can't flip a switch and throw themselves into every single case. Even in an ideal setting, public defender offices carry a heavy caseload, he says, and the goal should be to make more of a difference each year. This year it's 20 cases, next year try for 30. And 40 the next. Along the way, he says, "you have to forgive yourself for those who slip through the cracks."

With Mr. Rapping's support, Ms. Kurien—the Georgia lawyer and protégé—was able to move on from that first murder case and return to the courtroom. This year will mark her eighth with the Fulton County Public Office, an anniversary she says she would not have seen if not for Mr. Rapping, Ms. Askia, and Gideon's Promise.

Last year, Ms. Kurien attended a Gideon's workshop on how to make a biographical video for clients, aiming to help the court see the person behind the defendant's table. She chose a case that she felt had potential for mitigation. Then she filmed interviews with the client's fiancé, her 15-year-old daughter, her work supervisor and a childhood friend. She took photos of the 15-year-old's room, the walls papered with letters the client had written her daughter from prison. Ms. Kurien then edited down hours of footage to a five-minute video and showed it to the district attorney. Her client, who was facing a mandatory 25 years in prison without parole, had her sentence reduced to three years.

Ms. Kurien has more than a few personal success stories she can attribute to Gideon's Promise. But perhaps more important are the lessons she is now able to pass on to her younger colleagues. "When I see young attorneys with desperation on their faces," she says, "I see myself in them." 

“We’re always activists first.” Students on the front lines of a national movement against sexual violence find a battlefield with no boundaries. —
BY RUTH STEINHARDT

Everywhere she goes, **Kirsten Dimovitz** is the recipient of difficult secrets.

“At parties, or grocery shopping or in line for food, or sometimes I’m on my way to class and I get a text from somebody I only kind of know, and they want to talk,” she says.

The stories she hears can be emotional and confused. Some people

want an explanation for a bad sexual experience. Others want a word for what happened to them. Most just want someone to listen.

Not all of the people who approach her are survivors of sexual violence or friends of survivors. Some want to talk abstractly about policy. Some want to schedule training for their student organizations. As co-president of the GW organization Students Against Sexual Assault, or SASA, Ms. Dimovitz is one of the most visible faces in Foggy Bottom for an issue that has hit a flashpoint across the nation.

She and other activists must juggle multiple public and private identities, serving as confidants, coaches, diplomats and agitators. And, when possible, as ordinary 20- and 21-year-old students.

“But we’re always activists first,” Ms. Dimovitz says. “When we want to be, and when we don’t.”



**Kirsten Dimovitz, one of the leaders of
Students Against Sexual Assault**

Over the rattle of cappuccino machines and the calls of baristas at a crowded Starbucks on H Street, Ms. Dimovitz remembers her spirited younger self with a self-deprecating grimace. She was a defender of the underdog at her small school, she says, always trying to change her classmates' conservative views about issues like gay marriage and feminism.

"My dad and I have this motto: When you talk to someone, you plant a seed," she says.

Broadscale issue diplomacy "was basically my daily routine in school." Then a close friend suffered an assault.

The incident turned her social circle upside down, and the issue of sexual violence became her consuming focus: advocating for survivors and fostering a culture where it would not happen to anyone else.

When she arrived at GW in 2013, she made a point of joining SASA—which at the time, she says, was "more support group-y." "We spent most of our meetings just talking," she remembers. "It was very supportive, and that was great."

But SASA members no longer have much time to talk. Ms. Dimovitz says that in addition to setting up near-constant awareness trainings for fraternities, sororities and other student organizations, the group's focus has shifted in reaction to what is shaping up to be a historic moment or, at the least, a tipping point.

Public and media engagement on the issue of campus sexual assault has steadily crescendoed over the past year, demanding introspection and change in the face of troubling statistics. A 2007 study conducted by the Justice Department's National Institute of Justice estimated that 1 in 5 women is sexually assaulted during her college years, and that just 12 percent of those assaults are reported. (Study findings vary and have limitations; regardless, many experts believe sexual assaults are underreported.)

The federal government, in response, has made the issue a priority. More than 100 universities are under investigation by the Department of Education for alleged violations related to the handling of sexual violence under the law known as Title IX, which guarantees equity between the sexes at federally funded educational institutions. The White House launched a task force on the issue last January. By the summer, legislation had been introduced in Congress to create campus resources for survivors and increase administrative transparency. And in September, the White House launched the

"It's On Us" awareness campaign, aimed at sparking communitywide engagement.

GW President Steven Knapp attended the White House event, along with the president of the Student Association and other university officials. "A culture change involves an entire university," Dr. Knapp said afterward. "It's not just about university administrators and survivors. It's about our community refusing to tolerate sexual assault and violence."

Students and administrators had been bringing the issue to the front burner at the university, including taking a hard look at the extent and nature of the problem, which is being used to chart a path forward. A survey of more than 700 students conducted in April 2014 found, in part, that 22 percent of undergraduate students reported experiencing what they would consider to be sexual harassment, sexual violence, dating/

"A culture change involves an entire university. It's not just about university administrators and survivors. It's about our community refusing to tolerate sexual assault and violence."

GW PRESIDENT STEVEN KNAPP

domestic violence or stalking while enrolled at the university. Among graduate student respondents, the figure was 6 percent.

The university also has been consolidating and strengthening its Office of Diversity and Inclusion, under which most issues of sexual violence prevention will eventually fall.

Terri Harris Reed, the vice provost at the helm of that office, brought on board Rory Muhammad in November as Title IX coordinator, overseeing compliance with

the gender-equity law across the university, from issues surrounding harassment and sexual assault to discrimination in sports, education and the workplace. The office also added Carrie Ross, assistant director for sexual assault prevention and response, in March of this year.

Both serve on a new Presidential Committee on Sexual Assault Prevention and Response, a group of administrators, staff, faculty and students who are designing and implementing a revised slate of educational programs on sexual violence.

"As important as it is to have a response strategy in place, it's just as important to have our prevention strategies in place," Mr. Muhammad said during an interview in February. "We want to provide the community with skills and tools that prevent Title IX violations from happening. That means potential assaulters, potential victims, potential bystanders—everybody."

The committee is focused on adding resources but also boosting awareness of the resources that exist: In the survey from last year, about 80 percent of students said they did not know how to contact GW's Title IX office or the Sexual Assault Response Consultative Team, staff members trained to assist survivors of sexual assault. New efforts to close that gap include Title IX information sessions for incoming students and their parents during this summer's Colonial Inauguration orientation events. There will be mandatory in-person and online sexual assault prevention training in the fall for incoming undergraduates, and mandatory online training for graduate students. A dozen student residential advisers also are being recruited for special training on sexual assault issues, and to serve as points of contact and support.

As the issue swelled on campus and across the nation, SASA saw a pivot point and began staging larger events and positioning itself as a representative student voice on the issue.

"Moments arise in history and you either capitalize on them or you don't," Ms. Dimovitz says.

Many student groups on campus deal with issues surrounding sexual assault, including Allied in Pride, the Feminist Student Union and various affinity groups. But SASA's position is unique: It is the only sizable organization dedicated solely to combating sexual violence, and it has evolved within student memory from essentially a discussion group to a lobbying force.

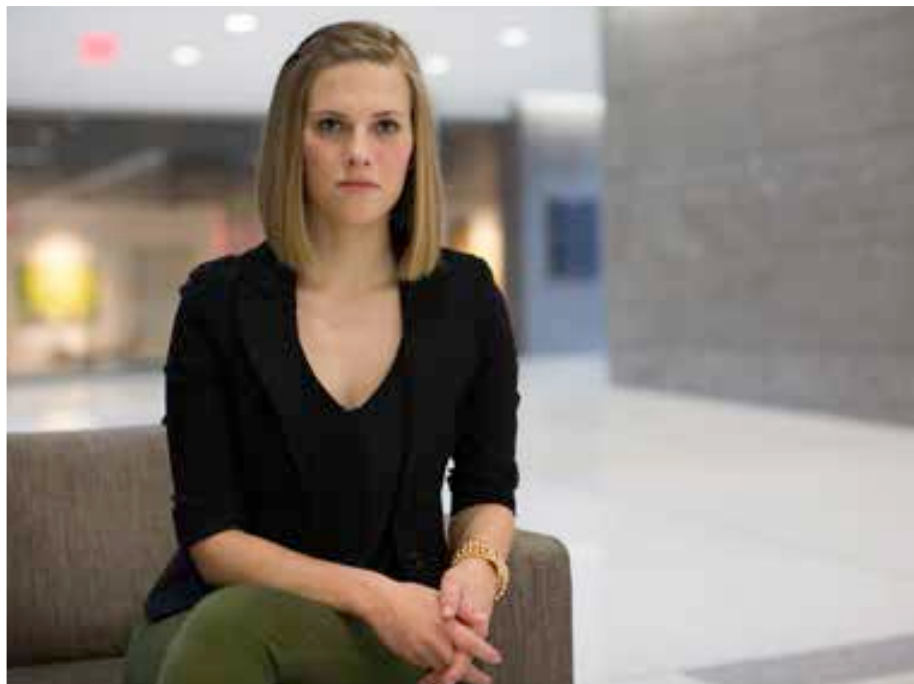


**ABOVE SASA Co-President
Ariella Neckritz RIGHT
SASA Vice President
Laura Zillman**

In the fall, the group brought to campus first lady Michelle Obama's chief of staff, Tina Tchen, in coordination with a universitywide week of "It's On Us"-related events. SASA followed up with a semester's worth of advocacy, including work with the Student Association to lead a groundswell of student support for mandatory sexual assault prevention programming ahead of the university's announcement. The issue appeared as a referendum on student election ballots this spring, and was supported by 92 percent of voters.

SASA's current leaders also serve on the university's Presidential Committee on Sexual Assault Prevention and Response, along with Mr. Muhammad, Ms. Ross, and others.

"Every voice involved wants this campus to be safe, wants this campus to be responsive when things don't go well and wants us to do as much as we can to promote health and safety, rather than only reacting



when that's not in place," Ms. Ross says. "Even people who disagree [do so] because they have a deep commitment to resolving this issue. That's a good problem to have."

On a bright Sunday in April, SASA Vice President Laura Zillman stands in University Yard squinting against the sun. She and about a half-dozen other volunteers are running outdoor events as part of Take Back the Night, an international event that raises awareness of sexual violence.

The focus of the afternoon is "Walk a Mile

in Their Shoes," in which male participants wobble around in high heels while learning about sexual violence statistics. A group from the Delta Tau Delta fraternity, looking dapper in suits from the chapter meeting they've just left, try on sets of pumps under the guidance of an older brother.

"Dude, your calves look great," one calls.

The fraternity has been a regular participant in the event for years, Ms. Zillman says. "We love them."

It's particularly gratifying given how difficult it can be to voluntarily engage people on such a volatile issue. The topic, not surprisingly, makes people uncomfortable.

"Most people are not victims and are not perpetrators, so they don't feel it's relevant to them," says Sarah McMahan, associate director of Rutgers University's Center on Violence Against Women and Children. "People often don't want to talk about it."

The issues are also complex, calling for self-examination and openness to change.

"It's really challenging sometimes ... to understand the levels of victim-blaming that go on, and to think about not just why a

victim experiences sexual violence but why a perpetrator perpetrated it," Dr. McMahan says. "That's shifting huge social norms and deeply ingrained beliefs, not just on college campuses but throughout our society."

Two SASA activists lead the group off for a teetering circuit of the grassy quad, and in the lull their colleagues enjoy a moment of rest. One SASA member yawns. He was up until 6:30 a.m., he says, playing video games.

"Yeah, I don't really feel bad for you," Ms. Zillman says dryly.

She knows what it's like to be tired. Opening a weekly planner with hours that are neatly blocked off with colorful bricks, she tells me that "everything in pink is for SASA." There is no day without a pink block. Most of them have several.

Ms. Zillman's day starts at 8, when she checks SASA's email and Facebook accounts. Her own email is usually filled with SASA business, too. Mostly there are logistical concerns—requests for trainings

and partnerships, event details, T-shirt sizes—but several times a week, she says, she receives an emotional message from someone in need of resources.

For her, those messages demand an instant response, even when she is in class or in the middle of another commitment.

“I understand that it takes a lot to send a message like that,” she says. “So I always want to respond quickly and acknowledge it and say, ‘I’m not ignoring you, thank you for trusting me with this, please give me a moment to respond substantively.’”

“No one told me

that my friends would blame me,” a survivor says to the supportive snaps of a crowd gathered in Kogan Plaza. A woman in the audience, also a survivor, weeps almost soundlessly. “No one told me that I would blame myself. No one told me that it is much easier to hate yourself than to hate the person who violated you.”

The speaker’s voice trembles through the megaphone. “It was not my fault. I am not afraid. And I am telling the truth.”

A day after the men floundered in heels, the tone of Take Back the Night is raw and emotional. Ariella Neckritz, the co-president of SASA, was one of several people who shared stories and poetry at the event, herself a survivor of an abusive relationship.

“Demonstrations like this are about expressing pain and healing,” she tells me later. “Sharing your story is really powerful.”

The group had gathered not only to hear from survivors—the traditional centerpiece of Take Back the Night—but also to rally in support of the mandatory prevention programming. The student referendum was



During events surrounding Take Back the Night: TOP decorated t-shirts are strung across the University Yard; MIDDLE Ariella Neckritz (with megaphone) leads students in a show of support for training; BOTTOM Members of Delta Tau Delta try on heels.

nonbinding, and when the speakers were finished, students marched to Rice Hall to show their commitment to the issue.

“I’m so grateful every time someone shares their story with me,” Ms. Neckritz says a few days after the event. “The fact that people have that level of trust with us is so beautiful and humbling. But I think it is hard to deal with as human beings—constantly hearing these stories.”

She struggles with reliving her own pain during disclosures.

Even commonplace training sessions can wear on them, Ms. Dimovitz says. During small-group workshops, SASA peer educators sit with a few dozen classmates for frank discussions on sex, healthy relationships, what constitutes abuse and resources that are available.

Sometimes these conversations involve dismantling long-held misperceptions about perpetrators and victims without alienating people who are trying to understand.

“You have to get past the destructive things they were taught,” Ms. Dimovitz says, “and meanwhile you’re also battling your own demons and your own guilt trip, and then it’s three hours later and you’re emotionally drained. And you’re like, ‘I’ve

gotten through to one person!’ One person, and that’s great, but you’re exhausted.”

All three women agree that, anecdotally, most members of SASA are either survivors or have close friends who are. That makes it difficult to step back.

Carrie Ross, the assistant director for sexual assault prevention and response, founded a similar student group at her own alma mater. She says she has “a lot of respect and empathic memory” for student activists.

“I think that one of the hardest things about being a student activist is the feeling that you absolutely cannot say no,” she says. “There are always people in need, and you feel such a responsibility to your community.”

That feeling of endless obligation can mean that even victories often don't feel quite like victories. Dr. Knapp met with the leaders of SASA just before the announcement this spring about instituting student training on sexual assault, affirming the university's stance alongside the student referendum and advocacy work. An hour later, the SASA activists already felt uncertain. Would the training be enough? Would students cooperate? What input would they have?

"We're always looking to the next thing," Ms. Dimovitz says. "Sometimes I feel like we don't let ourselves be happy."

But to be "looking to the next thing," of course, is to acknowledge progress. And even if the job never feels done, there is healing for the people they reach and for themselves.

Like Ms. Zillman, Ms. Neckritz says that activism is a "coping mechanism" for her—a way of "building peace."

"The more I do this work, the more I find peace within myself," she says. Part of that is because the work also provides a community. "You can share your experiences in a safe space, surrounded by people who can also say, 'This happened to me.' That helped me feel more comfortable in owning what happened to me and feeling OK about sharing it."

Two of the three SASA leaders also utilize counseling sessions offered by Mental Health Services at the Colonial Health Center. That kind of personal care is an important part of the conversation that the university wants to have with student activists, Carrie Ross says.

"As we [the Title IX office and student activists] have more history together and develop that trust that only comes with

People "want to be involved ... On campus, people are feeling much more comfortable acknowledging the subject."

ARIELLA NECKRITZ

working together, I want to integrate self-care into what we talk about," she says. "Because it is really essential. There has to be some of your time that is not for sale."

It's an ongoing education for the student advocates and for GW administrators, as it is for universities nationwide and the media and the public at large. Confronting and preventing sexual assault will mean a

constellation of changes to thoughts and actions on individual and societal levels. But if the first step is to peel back the fear that obscures the problem, to push it up into public consciousness, then it seems that the needle is moving.

After their meeting with Dr. Knapp, the SASA trio sits in the tempietto in Kogan Plaza. They're dressed professionally, but the April sun is out and before long Kirsten Dimovitz has kicked off her shoes to enjoy it. Passersby stop to congratulate them.

"People more and more want to be involved in and give to this work," Ms. Neckritz says. "They're liking the SASA Facebook page, they're following what we're doing ... On campus, people are feeling much more comfortable acknowledging the subject."

Asked whether this stint in advocacy will stay with them past college, Ms. Neckritz says she intends to remain an activist, and Ms. Zillman agrees: "I'll always be doing this work," she says, shrugging matter of factly.

Ms. Dimovitz hesitates. She's a science and technology enthusiast, interning this summer at a biotech firm in Silicon Valley. She'd like to work at Google.

"But it still ties back into sexual assault awareness, ways I could contribute to that," she says. She ticks off the possibilities: virtual reality as a training mechanism, coding for sexual assault prevention apps. Then, apparently feeling she's gotten carried away, she breaks off.

"I could talk about tech forever," she says with an embarrassed smile. "But I'm always talking about this." 

Where to Turn

University and nationwide resources are available to offer support and further information.

At GW

Sexual Assault Response Consultative (SARC) Team Hotline

(202) 994-7222

Non-emergency email:
sarcteam@gwu.edu

SARC team members are professionals trained to assist survivors of assault. Team members do not act as counselors but can provide information and resources to make informed decisions.

Haven

haven.gwu.edu

A hub for on- and off-campus resources regarding harassment and abuse, intended for faculty, staff, students and visitors to the university.

GW Title IX Office

(202) 994-2657

GW Students Against Sexual Assault

facebook.com/GWSASA

GW Police Department

Emergency: (202) 994-6111

Non-emergency: (202) 994-6110

Nationwide

National Sexual Assault Hotline

1 (800) 656-HOPE (4673)

Online support hotline:

ohl.rainn.org/online

Maintained by the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network, this 24-hour hotline offers free, confidential counseling and support.

National Dating Abuse Hotline

1 (866) 331-9474,

Or text "LOVEIS" to 22522

loveisrespect.org

Deaf Abused Women's Network (DAWN)

TTY (202) 861-0258

deafdawn.org

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender National Help Center

Hotline: 1 (888) 843-4564

glbthotline.org

Reuniting Babies and Their Bottles

For infants with disorders that leave them unable to eat, feeding tubes and surgeries offer an imperfect fix. The problem is in the brain, and that's where GW researchers are looking for a cure.

BY LAUREN INGENO





Monica Jennings could not swallow when she was born prematurely in 1994 at Boston's Brigham and Women's Hospital.

SHE would aspirate liquids, inhaling them into her lungs, which led to a series of pneumonia and sinus infections. Soon after her birth, doctors inserted a tube into her nose to feed her, and at three weeks, put another in her trachea to protect her airway. Though they told her mother, Lisa, that the tubes likely would be temporary, they remained for more than a decade.

Ms. Jennings spent the first months of her daughter's life consulting geneticists, neurologists, speech therapists and gastroenterologists, but no one could tell her why Monica was unable to swallow. For two years, they called her symptoms a medical mystery.

"My sister and I lived together, and my nephew was born a few weeks after Monica. So I came home every night to this very

healthy, very hungry, vocal baby. And I had exactly the opposite," Ms. Jennings says. "I couldn't feed her or hold her. Oh, it was brutal. Brutal."

Doctors finally diagnosed Monica with 22q11.2 deletion syndrome, known as 22Q or DiGeorge syndrome, a disorder that affects an estimated 1 in 4,000 people, though it may be more, as experts suspect it is underdiagnosed. DiGeorge syndrome is caused by a small amount of genetic material missing on the long arm of chromosome 22. Most often, the deletion occurs at random and is rarely inherited from a parent.

The syndrome can lead to an extraordinarily large and diverse range of health and cognitive issues, from learning disabilities and language delays to heart defects and seizures, making it difficult to

recognize.

But one of the most debilitating symptoms of DiGeorge, and the root of overwhelming anxiety for parents like Ms. Jennings, is the inability to properly chew, swallow and digest food.

Dysphagia, the medical term broadly applied to these symptoms, is a dangerous complication that affects not only DiGeorge patients but also at least one-third of those with neurodevelopmental disorders, like Down syndrome and autism.

"It must be terrible, to be brand new in the world and every time someone comes at you with food it hurts," says Anthony LaMantia, a professor of pharmacology and physiology in the School of Medicine and Health Sciences and director of GW's Institute for Neuroscience. ►

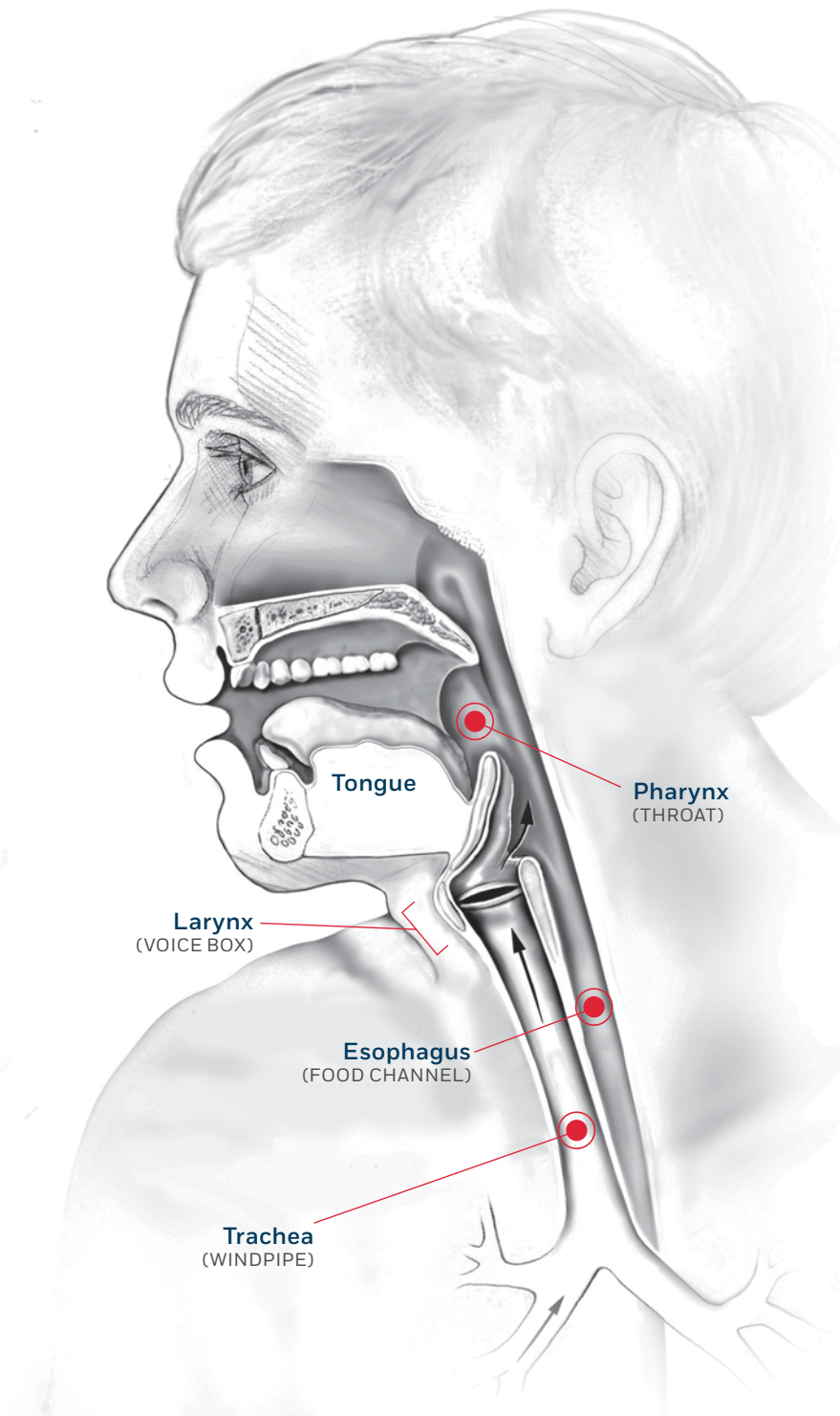


"I thought that if you were going to solve a compelling problem, this would be it."

Anthony LaMantia

The Food Network

Eating is an intricate orchestration of moving parts, from jaws to muscles to receptors, that ensures food is processed, pushed along and sent down the right path—and not to the lungs or nasal cavity.



► And for patients like now 21-year-old Monica, it is an enduring battle. Though she first ate solid food—a banana—at age 13, Monica struggles daily with dysphagia and the health issues that stem from it.

Dr. LaMantia has been studying DiGeorge syndrome for more than a decade. He has primarily focused on disruptions in the development of the cerebral cortex, the part of the brain that does the heavy lifting of memory, learning and cognition. However, as he talked to pediatricians, he realized they were spending a frustrating amount of time

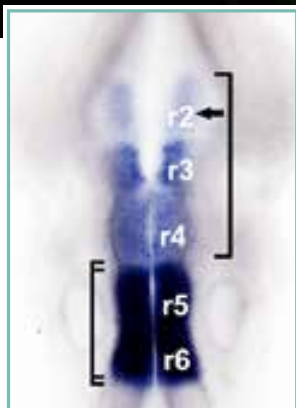
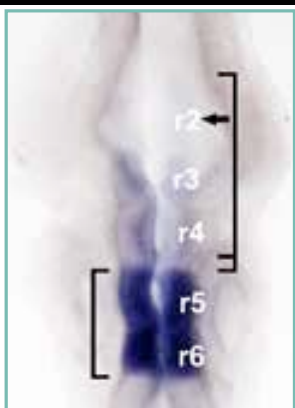
trying—to little avail—to relieve swallowing problems in DiGeorge patients.

“None of the clinical literature addressed, ‘Why is this happening? And what can you do to fix it?’ I thought that if you were going to solve a compelling problem, this would be it,” Dr. LaMantia says.

In a 2013 study, Dr. LaMantia and a team of GW researchers reported finding that an existing, genetically modified 22Q mouse model exhibited all the major dysphagia symptoms found in DiGeorge patients—including issues with weight gain,

swallowing and lung infections—opening the door to a more detailed look at the disruptions underlying the problem.

Analyzing the mouse model, the team found that issues with eating and swallowing were directly linked to a disruption in the embryonic development of cranial nerves—a dozen pairs of nerves that originate in the brain and carry out functions related to different senses in the body. The discovery reversed a common assumption that dysphagia symptoms arise after a child is born. ►



Embryonic brain stems from a control mouse (left) and a 22q11.2 mouse model (right) are stained to show, in blue, the expression of a gene. When the gene is overexpressed, as it is in the mouse model, cranial nerve development is disrupted.

In this image of a 22q11.2 mouse model embryo, a red stain is used to make the nerves more visible, while blood vessels are highlighted in green. In 2013, Dr. LaMantia's team found that issues with eating and swallowing were directly linked to a disruption in the embryonic development of cranial nerves. The discovery reversed a common assumption that dysphagia symptoms arise after a child is born.



1 in 4,000

Prevalence of DiGeorge syndrome, though experts suspect it is underdiagnosed

35-80

Estimated percentage of people with neurodevelopmental disorders who are affected by dysphagia (difficulty eating)

\$6.2 million

Amount of a new grant from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development that brings together the efforts of seven GW faculty members

“It turns out that in the development of the earliest, prenatal steps that set up craniofacial structures—like the mouth and jaw—as well as the brain structures and nerves that control those muscles, something just isn’t quite right,” says study co-author Tom Maynard, an associate research professor of pharmacology and physiology.

Now, after three years of preliminary studies, Dr. LaMantia has assembled an interdisciplinary team of researchers from GW and Children’s National Health System that will use the mouse model to understand how and why early brain disruptions lead to dysphagia in patients with developmental disorders.

The three-part project is funded by a \$6.2 million grant from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development and brings together a group comprising neuroscientists, geneticists, developmental biologists and clinicians. Along the way, the team will also consult with pediatricians and speech therapists at Children’s National to see how they may be able to translate their research findings into clinical practice.

The research promises not only to define new therapies and prevention strategies that may improve the lives of those with DiGeorge syndrome but may also have an impact far beyond those patients.

“If we can understand how the neural circuits are compromised in the part of the brain that regulates this very simple, but very essential behavior of swallowing and food indigestion,” Dr. LaMantia says, “that may give us insight and a framework about how neural circuits are compromised for much more complex behaviors that go awry in developmental disorders.”

THE BROKEN BLUEPRINT

Though it seems like a simple, even automatic task, the act of eating is a complex orchestration of brain and body.

When all goes according to plan, food is chewed, mixed with saliva and positioned on the tongue for transport to the back of the mouth. Sensory receptors in the tongue and throat trigger the swallow, and the palate rises and closes to prevent food from entering the nasal cavity. The voice box elevates to protect the airway, and food is routed into the throat.

“There is a whole process of preparing the food, directing it and keeping it on the right path,” says Dr. Maynard, who studies cell signaling during neural development and will serve as co-investigator in two of the dysphagia project studies. “It actually takes fairly fine motor control, considering that most of us don’t have to think about it.”

In DiGeorge patients, various points in that sequence are broken. Doctors can surgically correct severe facial defects, such as cleft palate, in an attempt to alleviate dysphagia. But many children with developmental disorders who aspirate do not have any visible facial abnormalities. This suggests something is going haywire in the brain, rather than in their facial mechanics.

“As soon as any neural mechanism is involved, it becomes a much harder problem,” Dr. LaMantia says. “You can recognize it clinically, but the underlying brain control of this behavior, and also the peripheral mechanism that must be put in place, is very complicated. Our ability to really fix it has been limited, because our knowledge has been limited.”

The mystery mirrors cases of children with developmental disorders who have issues with eye alignment, which can lead to double vision. For years, doctors tried to correct these problems—often unsuccessfully—by operating on eye muscles. But the root of the issue was deeper.

“The surgery wasn’t dealing with the problem,” Dr. LaMantia says. “The problem was in the cranial nerve circuits in the brain stem that control eye movement.”

The findings inspired Dr. LaMantia, who thought that those same disruptions could be causing dysphagia in DiGeorge patients.

The pattern of genes that are switched on and off—called gene expression—in the embryonic brain stem lays out the blueprint for the proper development of the face, mouth, lips and jaw. It also gives

rise to the nerve cells that control feeding and swallowing. While analyzing the brain stems of the 22q11.2 mutant mouse models, Dr. LaMantia and his team discovered that gene expression levels and patterning in this region were highly disorganized. The brain's instruction booklet wasn't providing correct information to the face.

"We were able to show in the animal model that in a surprisingly classical, molecularly mechanistic way, the initial formation of that part of the brain was disrupted," Dr. LaMantia says. "What we now have to figure out is what the consequence of that disruption is."

In their new project, Dr. LaMantia, associate director Sally Moody, a professor of anatomy and regenerative biology and an expert in craniofacial development, and Norman Lee, a professor of pharmacology and physiology who specializes in genomics, will investigate how these early interruptions establish changes in neural circuits in feeding and swallowing. They'll see how neurons in the brain stem develop and migrate during the prenatal period and what factors may cause that migration.

Simultaneously, David Mendelowitz, vice chair of the Department of Pharmacology and Physiology, will lead a study into whether the neurons in the brain that control feeding and swallowing may be misfiring in DiGeorge patients. He will work with Dr. Maynard, Dr. Lee and Anastas Popratiloff, director of GW's Center for Microscopy and Image Analysis, in these efforts.

"The question is, what's causing the swallowing difficulty? Is it the function of the individual motor neurons? Is it the sequence of events? Is it the timing or the magnitude of these changes?" Dr. Mendelowitz says.

By identifying the receptors or neurotransmitters that may be overactive or underactive in the brains of DiGeorge patients, Dr. Mendelowitz is hoping to point the way to targeted therapies for improving dysfunctional swallowing.

From the various arms of the project, the team also hopes to better understand the wide variability of DiGeorge syndrome's kaleidoscope of symptoms. In the mouse model, the researchers saw remarkable variation among siblings, which should have nearly identical genetic makeups. One goal, Dr. LaMantia says, will be to identify other genes at the root of dysphagia, in order to create a "genetic map of vulnerabilities" that could be used to predict or diagnose physical problems.

A DIETARY FIX

As the project got under way this spring, the researchers came into it with one idea for straightening out the circuitry that goes off

One goal, he says, will be to create a "genetic map of vulnerabilities."

course.

Retinoic acid, the active form of vitamin A, is instrumental in the patterning of nerves that initiate swallowing. The researchers' 2013 study found that the 22Q mouse embryos appear to be hypersensitive to even the smallest changes of the nutrient.

"Really high or low doses of retinoic acid can change those cranial nerves, so it makes sense that it would cause swallowing defects," says Irene Zohn, an associate professor of pediatrics at GW and a researcher at Children's National. "But it seems that the mice carrying the 22q11.2 deletion are not able to compensate for small ups and downs."

Dr. Zohn, a developmental biologist, will lead efforts to determine whether modifying the vitamin A intake in mouse model mothers could prevent dysphagia in their offspring.

"Our preliminary data shows that yes, things can change," she says. "But the question is: How much do all these changes come together to affect the physical abnormality?"

If the researchers do find a link between vitamin A intake and the emergence of dysphagia in people with DiGeorge syndrome, clinicians may be able to offer corrective dietary guidelines for expectant mothers.

Within the next five years, the researchers hope to get closer to assembling the pieces that make up the complex picture of pediatric dysphagia and, in turn, uncovering new ways to prevent and treat the condition.

In the meantime, nearly two decades after Monica Jennings was diagnosed with DiGeorge syndrome, her mother's search for answers continues, as well. Years of medications, therapy and multiple surgeries have yet to resolve her daughter's difficulties with swallowing.

"I could go on for ages about the paths we have followed, plowed or dismissed, and the things we've discovered along the way," Lisa Jennings says.

New research endeavors give her hope, though she also understands better than most the challenges facing scientists. "I have an entirely different respect for the complexity of human biology," she says, "and just how fragile the body can be." ■

PHILANTHROPY UPDATE



The GW Troubadours perform at the 2015 Power & Promise gala.

THE POWER OF PHILANTHROPY

Donors and students toast scholarships and the future at GW's annual Power & Promise gala

She grew up in one of the roughest neighborhoods in south Philadelphia, raised by a single mother who worked long hours in a drapery factory. As a child, Grace Venters Speights was surrounded by poverty, homelessness and gang warfare.

After graduating from the University of Pennsylvania

in 1979, she set her sights on law school without a clue how she would pay for it. When the acceptance letters came in, only one school offered her a scholarship: the George Washington University.

"That offer was a life-changer," said Ms. Speights, JD '82, who last year established the Grace Venters Speights Endowed Law Scholarship Fund at GW. Today, she is a managing partner at Morgan Lewis. "It was for all of these reasons that I endowed a scholarship at the law school. This is my way of paying GW back."

Speaking to more than 300 donors, students, trustees and staff at GW's annual

Power & Promise dinner in April, Ms. Speights said that scholarships provide the opportunities and foundation for student success. Established in 2009 by GW President Steven Knapp, Power & Promise helps lower the cost of a GW education and reduce loan burdens of graduates by providing scholarships to qualified students, regardless of financial resources. The fund—part of GW's commitment to support students, which is one of the key pillars of the university's \$1 billion "Making History" campaign—has raised more than \$120 million in scholarships and fellowships since 2009.

"Whenever I'm asked what

impressed me most when I came to this institution, I always give the same answer: It's our students," Dr. Knapp said. "It's the energy, the inventiveness, the creativity, the entrepreneurial spirit they bring to our campus. Our students come to this great capital city and they begin to dive into the life's work they see ahead of them, and they do that with an extraordinary amount of dedication and commitment."

That commitment, he said, is supported by donors, including Ms. Speights, a member of the university's Board of Trustees. In total, GW provided more than \$160 million in undergraduate assistance during the 2013-14 academic year. Nearly two-thirds

of all undergraduate students at the university receive need- or merit-based financial assistance.

In a speech, aerospace engineering doctoral candidate Joseph Lukas, a recipient of the Douglas L. Jones Endowed Mechanical Engineering Graduate Fellowship in the School of Engineering and Applied Science, challenged the audience to look at the world in a different way.

“I did a PhD not for the money, but because I love learning,” said Mr. Lukas, who is part of a team sending two satellites into space this year. “Because of you, I’m achieving a childhood dream of mine—I get to change the way I see the world by sending a satellite into space. How will you change the way you see the world?”

That perspective is one shared by scholarship recipients and donors alike.

As her children reached their teenage years, Denise Dombay, BA ’88, began thinking of how to reconnect with her alma mater. A former member of the GW swim team and a senior finance business partner at Marriott International, Ms. Dombay joined the School of Business Board of Advisors and later created the Dombay Family Scholarship, which supports an undergraduate student-athlete studying business. The current beneficiary, junior Lauren Steagall, also is a member of the swim team.

“This scholarship really means a lot to me and my family,” Ms. Steagall said, standing next to her benefactor on stage. “However, the support didn’t end on a financial level. Denise has become a great mentor for me. I’ll be forever grateful for that.”

—James Irwin

 **For more on Power & Promise and the university’s \$1 billion “Making History” campaign, visit campaign.gwu.edu/power-promise.**

A BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE OPENS, AIDED BY DONORS

With the grand opening of Science and Engineering Hall, the largest academic building of its kind in the nation’s capital, the university is aiming for a future marked by innovation, discovery and state-of-the-art academic opportunities. The philanthropic support of donors was crucial to building the facility and will continue to be important to the work conducted within its walls.

“With this new building, we are indeed making history,” GW President Steven Knapp said at the building’s opening in March.

Many of the building’s donors were on hand to celebrate the event.

Mark V. Hughes, BA ’69, MS ’77, and his wife, Susan Dekelbom Hughes, made a donation for the building even before the university broke ground on the project.

Mr. Hughes, chair of the School of Engineering and Applied Science’s National Advisory Council and a former trustee, studied physics and computer science at GW and understands firsthand the importance of facilities to the strength of a university.

“It’s one of the steps we are taking to make GW a truly great university,” he says. “It may take a long time, but I hope someday GW will be one of the top 10 universities in the country. I think we are on that path, and I think this facility is an important step in realizing that.”

In addition to the Hughes’ initial gift, the couple donated \$1 million to construct the Dr. Donald R. Lehman Auditorium, a reconfigurable room that will serve as a venue for teaching and major lectures and symposiums. The space is named for Dr. Lehman, PhD ’70, professor emeritus and former executive vice president for

academic affairs.

“We felt it was most fitting that the space be named for Dr. Lehman because I’m not sure we’d have first-class science and engineering research, education and facilities without his advocacy over many years,” says Mr. Hughes. “I think he deserved a premier spot in this building.”

Asghar Mostafa, BS ’81, MS ’82, was committed to helping GW build Science and Engineering Hall because of his own “tremendous” experience at the university.

He and his wife, Holly, donated \$1 million to create the Asghar and Holly Mostafa Lab and Asghar and Holly Mostafa Dean’s Conference Room. Visiting the brand-new laboratory at SEH was particularly moving for Mr. Mostafa, who spent hours in dark, cramped laboratories as an undergraduate student in the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department.

“Seeing this lab—the lab I was in was so different,” he says. “This one is so beautiful and will inspire students.”

GW became a second home for Mr. Mostafa when he left his home country, Iran, at the age of 18. He credits GW for providing him with the foundation to start his own company, and he believes SEH will provide students with even more opportunities to develop their potential.

“Today to see the result after 10 years is unbelievable,” he says. “It makes [me] so happy to walk through the labs and see the students. It’s a great statement of what the school could be in the next 20 or 30 years, and I am hoping that all the new students who come to GW will have the same impression.”

—Julia Parmley

 **To learn more about Science and Engineering Hall, visit seh.gwu.edu.**

DONORS HONOR MUSEUM’S PAST, POSSIBILITIES

As they walked around the galleries of the new George Washington University Museum and The Textile Museum, Harry and Diane Greenberg came across the piece they donated, an early 20th-century tunic from Cameroon.

Their interest in textiles—now a collection spanning 450 pieces—was sparked by a fake Persian textile they brought into The Textile Museum years ago. The Greenbergs discovered that the textile, described to them as a 2,000-year-old Persian antique, was actually a modern rug with chemical dyes.

“That whetted my appetite for learning more, and The Textile Museum was a place to learn more,” Dr. Greenberg says.

“The space is beautiful, the new museum is beautiful, the things in the museum are more than beautiful,” he adds.

The Greenbergs, who are Founding Patron-level donors to the museum—those making commitments from \$50,000 to more than \$1 million to the museum—were among the more than 3,000 guests who celebrated the opening of the new museum complex in March. The opening and the museum’s three inaugural exhibitions were made possible, in part, by the support from individuals like the Greenbergs, as well as corporations and foundations. To date, Founding Patron commitments total more than \$16.5 million.

For conservator Harold F. Mailand, supporting the museum was a way to show his gratitude for the training he received in the museum’s conservation department in the late 1970s. He recently made a Founding Patron gift in memory of former Textile Museum conservators Clarissa Palmal and Helen Kovacs, who prepared Mr. Mailand for a career in textile conservation.

“I was very honored to be

part of that realm of students,” he says.

Mr. Mailand says he hopes that GW students will take advantage of the museum as a new educational and cultural resource. “The old Textile Museum was a domestic structure and was not designed to be a museum. Now we have a purpose-built museum, which is totally amazing,” he says. “Everyone is beaming.”

The museum is also home to the Albert H. Small Washingtoniana Collection, an assemblage of a thousand maps, prints and other documents that chronicle the evolution of the capital city from the 18th century to the 20th century.

The museum’s director, John Wetenhall, says that ongoing support for the museum is essential to its continued growth and cultural reach. “Funding curators and educators broadens the scope of our exhibitions, increases the number of research projects and internships we can offer, and expands the cultural programming we provide the GW community,” he says.

For more on the museum and current and upcoming exhibitions, visit museum.gwu.edu.

RALLYING THANKS UNDER GW’S BANNER

Nearly a thousand members of the university community—from students to GW President Steven Knapp—gathered in April to write notes of thanks to donors for their support.

“I wouldn’t have been able to attend this university without [my scholarship], so that’s something I’m always grateful for,” said Annie Dempsey, a senior in the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences and the recipient of financial aid from the E.K. Morris Education Fund.

Ms. Dempsey was one of



Students jot notes of thanks on GW Flag Day.

many students contemplating philanthropy at the April 8 event, called GW Flag Day, which recognized alumni, parents, faculty, staff and friends of GW who give back to the university.

“Without donations,” Ms. Dempsey said, glancing around the Mid-Campus Quad, “a lot of this wouldn’t be possible.”

Signs around campus that day reinforced the point. Nearly two-thirds of all undergraduate students at GW receive need- or merit-based financial assistance. More than 22,000 GW alumni, students, faculty, staff and friends made a donation to the university last year to strengthen student resources, capital projects or academic programs.

“This is a very visual thing,” said sophomore Jessica Allen. “I’ve seen staff from a lot of different offices; I’ve seen deans come by. A lot of students are writing about their student organizations and things they are studying here—things that wouldn’t be possible without support.”

She and more than 600 GW students made their own donations to GW throughout the day, unlocking a \$5,000 gift from an anonymous donor. The following day, more than 200 alumni made gifts to the university, matched by a group of

donors, including members of the Parents Campaign Philanthropy Board. More than \$45,000 was raised in support of student life, academic research and scholarships over the two days.

The Commander-in-Chief flag—said to have been designed by George Washington to travel with him during the Revolutionary War, and adopted as a symbol of GW’s \$1 billion philanthropic campaign, “Making History”—marked campus locations where philanthropy has made a difference. The flag represents a common goal of generating philanthropic support and perpetuates Washington’s vision of a university in the nation’s capital that would serve as America’s intellectual hub.

“I think it’s a pretty cool idea and way to bring George Washington into the campaign,” said Ms. Dempsey, a history major. “And the notes and cards make this day a little more personal and meaningful.”

—James Irwin

CHALLENGE RAISES \$80K FOR ATHLETICS

GW sporting events were a big part of the college experience for

Gil Cisneros, BA ’94. This winter, Mr. Cisneros, a member of the GW Athletics Advisory Board, returned the favor by creating the Buff & Blue Fund Challenge to support GW athletics.

For the inaugural fundraiser, which ended March 30, Mr. Cisneros offered to donate \$10,000 to the Buff & Blue Fund for every 100 people who also donated. In total, the challenge raised \$80,000 for GW athletics: \$50,000 donated by more than 300 alumni, parents, coaches, staff, current and former student-athletes, and fans, and Mr. Cisneros’ \$30,000 bonus.

“I hope it can be used to help take the athletic programs to the next level,” Mr. Cisneros says.

The money raised will provide unrestricted support for facility upgrades and enhance GW’s commitment to providing the best resources and collegiate experience to its students.

Originally scheduled to run from January 3 through the end of the men’s and women’s basketball seasons, the challenge went to overtime when the gymnastics team won the 2015 East Atlantic Gymnastics League Championship.

Among the more than 300 donors, many were members of GW athletics—including 100 percent participation by the executive officers of the GW Student-Athlete Advisory Council, head coaches, athletics senior staff, the volleyball team and its coaching staff, and the softball team.

“We were very fortunate to receive a new locker room at the start of our 2014 season,” says volleyball head coach Amanda Ault. “When we heard about the Buff & Blue Fund Challenge and Gil’s generosity, our team and staff had a great chance to show our appreciation by giving back.”

—Craig Burdick

The Buff & Blue Fund Challenge is over, but you can still get in the game by visiting go.gwu.edu/bbfc.

2 RESEARCHERS FILL ENDOWED FACULTY SPOTS

Two professors were installed in endowed positions this spring: Igor Efimov as the Alisann and Terry Collins Professor of Biomedical Engineering, and Robert H. Miller as the Vivian Gill Distinguished Research Professor.

Dr. Efimov joined GW in January as chair of the new Department of Biomedical Engineering. His cardiovascular research has advanced new therapies, including an implantable device that wraps around a patient's heart and detects impending cardiac arrest.

The Alisann and Terry Collins Professor of Biomedical Engineering was established in October by GW Trustee Terry Collins, DSc '76, and his late wife, Alisann, part of a \$2.5 million gift that also created scholarships for

eight students in the School of Engineering and Applied Science.

"Every great university is about people, and the people who make universities great are students and faculty," Provost Steven Lerman said at Dr. Efimov's installation in March. "Gifts like this one are an enduring commitment to the quality of faculty and students. There's no substitute for that."

Dr. Miller, a neuroscientist, joined the School of Medicine and Health Sciences in 2014 as senior associate dean for research and professor of anatomy and regenerative biology. He has focused on advancing and expanding research at GW.

"We are becoming collaborative as an institution," Dr. Miller said at the installation in May. "We're increasing that collaboration in a research spectrum. I think that is the future. It's different. It's a challenge. We need to be bold.

We need to take risks."

The Vivian Gill Distinguished Research Professor was created in 1967 by a gift from Thomas H. Gill in memory of his wife, Vivian.

AN EVENING FOR 'GW LOYAL'

Playwright Noël Coward once said, "The one and only thing that counts is: Do you have staying power?"

To honor more than 40 people who have supported GW for more than three decades, the university in March invited them to an evening featuring Michael Blakemore's revival of Mr. Coward's *Blithe Spirit* at The National Theatre in D.C., starring Oscar recipient and Tony Award winner Angela Lansbury.

"Obviously, my wife and I appreciate the opportunity to spend an evening going to dinner and the theater," said R. William "Bill" Douglas,

BBA '63. "However, it's not often you get the opportunity to see such a legendary actor or actress as Angela Lansbury in what may be one of their final roles—one of those can't-miss performances."

Members of GW Loyal, a giving designation created last year to honor the university's most committed donors, Mr. Douglas and his wife, Eileen, have supported GW for more than 45 years through gifts as well as engagement with the School of Business and athletics.

"When we returned to the D.C. area 12 years after graduation, I was able to become actively involved in campus activities," Mr. Douglas said. "The involvement in programs with fellow alumni, faculty and students not only convinced me of the need for support, but that GW was on a path to being an even greater institution."

—Carey Russell

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ALUMNI NEWS

Former House
Majority Leader
Eric Cantor, BA '85,
on stage during
the Wall Street
Symposium, in April.



EVENTS

Eric Cantor Headlines Wall Street Symposium

Former House Majority Leader Eric Cantor (R-Va.) reflected on politics past and present, family life and favorite GW memories at the sixth annual Wall Street Symposium in April.

Mr. Cantor, BA '85, spoke on stage in a conversation with Emmy Award-winning reporter Tara Rosenblum, BA '00, at the

David Rubenstein Atrium at New York's Lincoln Center.

The university, Mr. Cantor said, is a "pivotal presence" in the nation's capital and was the foundation for his career in politics.

"I think the experience I had in downtown D.C., sandwiched between the State Department and the White House, could not

have been a better feeding ground for me, given where I am now," he said.

As vice chairman of Moelis & Company, Mr. Cantor said his position allows him to pursue the same interests he had in Congress: encouraging people to invest capital to drive growth.

"I still care about the country," he said. "I think what we do helps people help their companies. That helps grow our economy, and ultimately, I think contributes to upward mobility for everybody."

Although no longer a civil servant, Mr. Cantor said he still keeps an eye on Capitol Hill.

He expressed concern about politics surrounding the Dodd-Frank Wall Street

Reform and Consumer Protection Act and the normalizing of U.S.-Cuba relations. And he told Ms. Rosenblum that Congress and President Obama should strive for more camaraderie.

“This may sound too simple, but I really think that the human nature of dealing with one another is somehow lost in the noise down there,” he said. “I plead with the president and his team to use that office to entice members on my side of the aisle to come have a meal, coffee or drink and enjoy one another’s company just to establish some rapport. Unfortunately, not enough of that takes place.”

On the 2016 presidential election, Mr. Cantor said he would bet on the Republican nomination going to Chris Christie, Marco Rubio, Jeb Bush or Scott Walker. Asked if he would run for office again, Mr. Cantor said he thinks he can still make an impact in the private sector.

“I feel like there is such an opportunity at the intersection of what GW represents and what we represent here—a connection between the nation’s capital and the world’s financial center,” he said. “There is so much opportunity between the two. I look forward to the opportunity to continue in both spheres.”

The annual symposium brings together GW’s alumni, parents and friends in the world of real estate and finance in New York. Nearly 18,000 alumni call the region home—the largest concentration of alumni outside of Washington.

In introductory remarks, GW President Steven Knapp noted that there “is nothing more important to the long-term strategy and the contribution that our university makes, both to its students and to our nation, than this very powerful connection between the world’s financial capital and the world’s political capital.”

For Matthew Cohen, BBA ’08, MBA ’11, a member of the NYC Real Estate & Finance Board of GW’s Real Estate and Finance Alliance, the event was a chance to see a man who created his biggest “only-at-GW” moment: As an undergraduate, Mr. Cohen had the opportunity to participate in a video interview with Mr. Cantor about job creation.

“As a young student and young mind who is filling myself with all these different experiences at GW and in Washington, D.C., it was truly one of those moments I’ll never forget and further made me appreciate all the opportunities you have at GW that you don’t have anywhere else in the world,” he said. —**Julia Parmley, MS ’10**

POLITICS

I’m Sorry ... Do We Know Each Other?

A dozen years after GW, two politicians reconnect on the air.

The news segment is over and the host has a question for her guest analysts: Is it possible they know each other?

Tony Sayegh and Sally Kohn laugh. They get this a lot. They have a familiar rapport on the air and have appeared on TV together before, Mr. Sayegh as a Republican strategist and Ms. Kohn as a progressive pundit. But the reason this question—asked in March 2013 by Fox anchor Megyn Kelly—is funny is because it’s one they asked themselves about a year earlier in the green room at Fox.

“We’re sitting in this little room in the side studio, and we’re doing our own little thing—checking phones and reading,” Ms. Kohn says. “And we keep looking at each other. I’m thinking, ‘You look familiar somehow.’”

Ms. Kohn broke the ice, and for a few minutes they tried to find their common connection, backtracking through nearly 15 years of unshared history before landing in Foggy Bottom, where both had attended GW.

“And it was an ‘Of course—got it!’ moment,” Ms. Kohn says.

Ms. Kohn, BA ’98, and Mr. Sayegh, BA ’98, MPA ’00, had been members of the College Democrats and College Republicans, respectively. They weren’t very close but crossed paths a few times.

The revelation triggered a barrage of memories.

“I think the nicest part of the whole thing was how instantly it put us in this familiarity with each other,” Mr. Sayegh says. “Sally sits in a lot of green rooms, and so do I. And it was just nice to feel like you reconnected with a friend versus just making small talk with a colleague.”

Today, Ms. Kohn is a contributor with CNN and Mr. Sayegh is a contributor with Fox. Both live in New York. Both have their ideological convictions. But both also are sensible. They complement each other on the air. They tease each other over the phone.

“The last time Tony suggested a get-together he proposed it at an anti-union restaurant,” Ms. Kohn says.

“Is there an anti-union restaurant in New York City?” he deadpans. “That’s impossible.”

For a while, Fox was booking them together on a regular basis. Though it’s not possible now, given their contracts with different networks, both hope for an opportunity to work together again.

“I hope there’s a format one day for us,” Mr. Sayegh says. “I have rarely met someone with her talent, in terms of being incredibly brilliant and funny together—incredibly wrong most of the time, but incredibly funny and brilliant.”

“Listen,” Ms. Kohn says, “two out of three ain’t bad.”

“In baseball that’s phenomenal,” he responds.

Ms. Kohn laughs. “The truth is, some day I hope Tony reenters the formal world of politics,” she says, referring to his two terms as deputy mayor of Tuckahoe, N.Y. “I think, parties aside, any district and any state would be lucky to have him, and I would be in the position of supporting him. And I would, without reservation. He’s my kind of Republican.” —**James Irwin**



Tony Sayegh

Sally Kohn

SERVICE

In Distant Land, Finding a Home Away From Home

Everyone in the tiny Moroccan village of Gffat knows Caroline Ayes, BA '13. She's the American instructor at the Dar Chabab youth center who teaches English to their sons and daughters. She's the enthusiastic volunteer who converted an old garage into an exercise studio for house-bound Gffat wives. And she's the energetic architect of a development program that connects youth to the country's natural environmental beauty.

And no one here at home is surprised by the impact she has made within the modest, predominantly Muslim hamlet surrounded by acres of orange and banana farms.

"You don't dabble in the Peace Corps," says Associate Professor of Media and Public Affairs Kerric Harvey. "It's a serious commitment to bettering the world. It takes alert, energetic, committed and big-hearted people to do that. People like Caroline."

The Pennsylvania native and political communication major is no stranger to foreign countries and cultures; Ms. Ayes is a veteran of five alternative-break trips, from South America to South Africa.

"I have always had the community service bug, and my time at GW broadened my international focus," she says. "Those travels made me realize what I wanted to do with my life."

But none of her journeys quite prepared Ms. Ayes for her Peace Corps experience after graduation.

Expecting that her Spanish fluency would land her a Central American assignment, the self-described "outspoken, liberal woman" instead found herself with a 26-month spot immersed in Morocco's conservative Muslim culture and its sensitive gender dynamic. There, she is a youth development specialist, with responsibilities ranging from encouraging young women to pursue education to engaging teens in environmental awareness—all while learning to hold a passable conversation in Darija, a hybrid of French and indigenous languages.

"Coming here was like being dropped on the moon," Ms. Ayes says. "I thought, 'Holy

cow, have I made a terrible mistake?'"

But a year later, Gffat feels like home.

Ms. Ayes initially struggled with finding an appropriate way to reach out to Gffat's women. "Gender is a very complicated issue here," she says. Gradually, she began introducing ways for women to connect, like all-female aerobics sessions and art classes for young girls. At the youth center, her nuanced approach resulted in an uptick in teenage girls stopping by for everything from English instructions to first-aid workshops.

Her latest project is her most ambitious yet: outdoor excursions to teach team-building, leadership and environmental stewardship. At the end of the program, the 15 teens—including eight girls—will hike to the 13,000-foot summit of Mount Toubkal, North Africa's highest peak.

Her Peace Corps assignment ends in April 2016, and she knows she'll be emotional about leaving Gffat behind.

"I've grown so attached to the families and young people here," she says. "These are the most hospitable, welcoming people I've ever met. We don't always think alike, but they have gone out of their way to make a stranger feel at home." —**John DiConsiglio**



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FROM THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Fellow Colonials:

Most of you probably remember a favorite course or professor at GW. For me, it is 19th-century European art with professor Lilien Robinson, herself an alumna who remains an active member of the GW faculty and a good friend. She inspired in me a lifelong interest in art history and a sustained passion for inquiry.

A painting we discussed in her class became a favorite of mine: Paul Gauguin’s masterpiece, *Where Do We Come From? What Are We? Where Are We Going?* That title is a good frame of reference for considering the state of GW alumni as my term as president of the GW Alumni Association concludes this summer.

Where Do We Come From?

While GW has always appreciated its alumni, for a long time the alumni staff was small and resources for alumni activities were modest. As the 21st century arrived, that began to change but resources focused on alumni remained limited.

GW significantly enlarged its commitment to alumni when President Steven Knapp arrived in 2007. The university has made engaging you—GW’s lifelong and worldwide community of alumni—a central element of university life. In the intervening years, the staff at Alumni House has more than tripled. There are experts to serve you and help you connect with each other and the university.

What Are We?

You are among more than 270,000 living alumni. There are countless opportunities to be involved. We have affinity groups: multicultural, LGBT, veterans, Greek, legacy, young alumni and more. Whether you are in New York or New Delhi, we have alumni groups to serve you. There are more than 40 alumni networks in the United States, more than 30 international networks and myriad events on campus and across the globe. Alumni receive many benefits and services, such as career services support, courses and discounts.

Alumni leaders are at the table on your behalf, in close contact with Dr. Knapp and trustees, administrators, faculty and student leaders. The GWAA Board of Directors meets five times a year, the executive committee six times and numerous committees constantly work to advance your interests.

This summer, the GWAA installs a new president, Jeremy Gosbee, BA’98, MBA ’02. Jeremy has served in leadership in the GWAA for years and has an outstanding agenda. A professional in communications strategy, he is an insightful and engaged leader who will serve you well.

Where Are We Going?

The overarching goal in my term as GWAA president has been to promote a culture of Colonials helping Colonials. Helping each other is not unusual among GW alumni, but talking about it as part of GW’s value system and value proposition is new. It means that Colonials should expect—and must be counted on—to open doors for each other and to help each other become successful. This theme has gained great traction. Your network of 270,000 fellow Colonials looking out for you can take you almost anywhere.

GW is in the midst of a campaign, called “Making History,” to raise \$1 billion. This is not just about raising funds, it is about changing people’s lives. I hope you will join us in supporting students, enhancing academics and breaking new ground.

It has been a privilege to serve you as GWAA president, and I look forward to continuing to work alongside you to advance the university and GW alumni.

Best regards, and Raise High!

Steve Frenkil, BA ’74, and past parent (’06, ’10)
President, GWAA, 2013-15
alumni.gwu.edu/gwaa



HONORS

President's Medal Awarded to Luther W. Brady

When he stepped to the podium on a Saturday night in May, at an event in his honor, Luther Brady wanted to talk about the GW he enrolled at in fall 1942, as a “wet-behind-the-ears 16-year-old” from Wilson, N.C.

“It was a revelation to me,” Dr. Brady said. “Immediately, I was gathered together into the arms of an incredible faculty. Elmer Louis Kayser taught European history. He was an incredible teacher, and his classes were huge—they occupied every seat in Lisner Auditorium and even the steps up and down the auditorium.”

Dr. Brady, AA '44, BA '46, MD '48, HON '04, recalled Dr. Kayser's classes with clarity and humor.

“His lectures on Antony and Cleopatra were so salacious that the university censored them,” he said. “Today, it would have not made any difference whatsoever.”

Dr. Brady, a trustee emeritus, was at the Corcoran to receive the President's Medal—the highest honor the university president can bestow—at a Commencement-eve ceremony attended by members of the Board of Trustees, the university's senior leadership, deans, students, family and friends.

“We're very proud to include Luther W. Brady among our [President's Medal] honorees,” GW President Steven Knapp said.

A longtime GW volunteer and donor, an arts patron and a foremost oncologist, Dr. Brady, through his estate, has provided for the establishment of a named professorship in radiation oncology. He is the namesake of the Luther W. Brady Art Gallery, which has attracted internationally recognized artists. And he serves on the George Washington University Museum and The Textile Museum Board of Directors.

“I really cannot begin to tell you how pleased and delighted I am to be here and to receive this accolade from the university,” he said. “It is, I think, the pinnacle of all the awards I've ever received from any institution or any organization. And I'm deeply grateful to everyone who's made it possible.”

Previous recipients of the President's Medal include Nobel laureate and former Soviet Union President Mikhail Gorbachev, musicians Dave Brubeck and Judy Collins, philanthropist Albert H. Small and journalist Walter Cronkite. —James Irwin



BUSINESS

At 2U, Aiming To Disrupt the Learning Curve

Education technology company packed with Colonials reimagines college life online.

“Let's change the way people think about online education.”

For the past seven years, that's been the mantra of Chip Paucek, BA '92, and dozens of GW alumni who are a part of 2U Inc., an education technology company based half an hour outside D.C., in Landover, Md.

And the company's mission is nothing less than that. While many still view online learning as secondary to traditional campus learning, 2U is attempting to shift that image. And its unique take on online education has already attracted colleges and universities from across the country, including at GW, and has fueled the company's rapid rise.

2U has 20 programs with 13 partner universities and has opened offices in New York, Los Angeles, North Carolina and Hong Kong. Along the way, it's helped to provide a new standard of online education for thousands of students.

Mr. Paucek, the co-founder and CEO of 2U, was the first in his family to attend college.

“GW completely changed my life—it turned me into the person that I am today,” the Columbian College graduate says. “GW is hugely important to my life story and the story behind 2U.”

GW is also a part of the story of 2U's general counsel, Todd Glassman, BBA '92; its executive vice president for brand and product marketing, Mark Mashaw, BA '92; and its regional executive vice president for graduate programs, Jason “JZ” Zocks, BBA '92.

It was on GW's Foggy Bottom Campus that the three 2U executives and its co-founder became friends as freshmen in 1988. For Mr. Paucek, Mr. Glassman, Mr. Mashaw and Mr. Zocks, their time at GW was transformational.

“We had a real community of people at GW,” says Mr. Glassman, whose nephew is a current GW student and 2U intern. “That community was a very important part of our education.”

Mr. Paucek says it's that sense of community that has been missing from online programs,” says.

“The GW community was so important to us while we were students,” he says. “It means something to be a part of the community at a great school, and we thought we could bring this experience to online education, too.”

There are a lot of moving parts to retooling how the world thinks about online education. 2U staff is involved in every level of launching a school's program and helping to run it: market research, recruiting, admissions

counseling, program development, state and national regulations compliance, operations, data analysis and student advising.

The goal throughout is to ensure that the quality of the online programs matches the quality that students come to expect from 2U partner schools like GW, Georgetown and the University of Southern California.

“We have to become experts in understanding the field of study, the student body, the professors, the classes so there is no distinction between on campus and online,” says Hilary Swaim, BA ’11, vice president for brand marketing at 2U.

The staff works closely with each school and program to develop the right blend of videos, live classes and even real-world learning experiences. The end result is a learning environment that reaches for the quality and depth of traditional programs and provides a campus experience—where cohorts of online learners grow together and stay connected after earning their degrees—from a virtual classroom.

GW’s Milken Institute School of Public Health offers two graduate-level degree programs through its partnership with 2U: a Master of Public Health and an Executive Master of Health Administration.

“What separates 2U from other online providers is that our programs are taught by school faculty members,” Mr. Mashaw says. “When you’re enrolled in GW’s public health program, you are being taught by the same renowned faculty and professionals as the

students on campus.”

GW’s Milken Institute School of Public Health started its partnership with the company in 2012, but 2U has tapped into the talent at GW since its early days.

Blair Gardner, BBA ’10, MS ’11, director of web strategy, remembers that there were only 18 full-time employees when he started at 2U as an intern in 2009. He was drawn in by the company’s mission to legitimize online education and was “hooked” by the enthusiasm and opportunities at 2U.

Ms. Swaim, who started as an intern with Mr. Gardner, says she never planned to work for an online education startup, but the challenge of working at a new company that “needed help with a little bit of everything” interested her.

“We realized when we were interning together that we were part of something special,” she says.

When Mr. Gardner’s GW roommate of four years, Ed Goodwin, BA ’09, graduated into a tough job market, he recruited Mr. Goodwin as a 2U intern. Now senior director of investor relations at 2U, Mr. Goodwin believes that one of the company’s biggest strengths is the interaction between every piece of the organization, every staff member.


“The culture here is about giving people the opportunity to challenge themselves and challenge others,” he says. “It’s about giving people the freedom to raise their hand to say, ‘This could be done better.’ Knowing that

your input is valued and needed is a big part of why we’re so successful and why we love working here.”

All told, more than 45 employees of 2U hail from GW, and students from Foggy Bottom are regularly a core part of the company’s annual crop of interns. “Early interns and employees from GW were really driven and smart and knew how to think—when you see that pattern, you go back to the well,” Mr. Zocks says.

Along the way, the company has helped provide a new standard of online education for thousands of students.

“It makes me really excited that this company allows people to have broader access to education than was possible online before,” says Chip Paucek, the co-founder and CEO. “And to do so, to succeed with the help and influence of so many fellow GW alumni—that’s special.” —**Gray Turner**

 For more on 2U and the work of Colonials there, visit go.gwu.edu/gwalumni2U.

OPPOSITE, FROM LEFT 2U employees Ed Goodwin, BA ’09, Hilary Swaim, BA ’11, and Blair Gardner, BBA ’10, MS ’11 BELOW More than two dozen GW alumni who work at the company—among more than 45 in total—gather to show a little GW pride.



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CLASS NOTES

**60s
& EARLIER**

Gus A. Mellander, MA '60, PhD '66, had two books, *Charles Edward Magoon: The Panama Years* (Editorial Plaza Mayor, 2000) and *The United States in Panamanian Politics: The Intriguing Formative Years* (Interstate Printers & Publishers, 1971), lauded as “essential for the study of early diplomatic relations between Panama and the United States” in a recent publication by the Library of Congress.

Vincent T. DeVita, MD '61, HON '84, was mentioned in the “Oncology Luminaries” series by the American Society of Clinical Oncology for introducing chemotherapy combinations for cancer therapy. The breakthrough occurred in 1965, when Dr. DeVita and his colleagues combined mustargen, oncovin, procarbazine and prednisone to treat Hodgkin’s disease. Since then, ASCO has named MOPP the top advance in modern oncology. Dr. DeVita is the Amy and Joseph Perella Professor of Medicine at Yale University.

70s

Kenneth Salomon, JD '70, has been appointed by the United States Olympic

Committee to the organization’s ethics committee. Mr. Salomon is the chair of the Thompson Coburn LLP lobbying and policy group with more than 40 years of experience advising clients on a broad range of government and public policy issues. He is also a founding board member and served for 13 years as president of the Maryland Soccer Foundation.

Susan Schiffer Stautberg, MA '70, has co-authored *Women on Board: Insider Secrets to Getting on a Board and Succeeding as a Director* (Quotation Media, 2014). She writes: “Board service today requires a more complex set of skills, experiences, and leadership styles than ever before, making this new book essential reading both for women considering a directorship and for women currently serving on boards of public companies,

private and family firms, or nonprofit organizations.”

Pamela Henson, BA '71, MA '76, was awarded the Secretary’s Gold Medal for Exceptional Service by Smithsonian Secretary G. Wayne Clough. Dr. Henson currently works as director of the institutional history division. She’s been at the Smithsonian since 1973.

Jack Phillip London, DBA '71, executive chairman of CACI International, was named as one of the 100 most influential people in business ethics for 2014 by the Ethisphere Institute. Dr. London also spoke on character and ethics as part of the Chancellor Bell Lecture Series at the National Defense University on December 10, 2014.

Glenn Whitaker, JD '72, a partner at Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP, has been included in the 2015 *Ohio Super Lawyers* list for his achievement in litigation. Mr. Whitaker’s practice has an emphasis on the representation of individuals and corporations in complex civil litigation and criminal proceedings.

Gary Horan, MS '73, was presented with the 2015 Regent Lifetime Award by the American College of Healthcare Executives. Mr. Horan is president and CEO of Trinitas Regional Medical Center and was recognized for 44 years of excellence.

Ellen Zane, BA '73, has been awarded the prestigious Leadership in Corporate Governance Award from the New England chapter of the National Association of Corporate Directors. Ms. Zane is a nationally renowned health care leader who recently retired as president and CEO of Tufts Medical Center and the Floating Hospital for Children. She is vice chair of the board of trustees at Tufts Medical Center.

Howard Williams, LLM '75, was among 36 Brooks Pierce attorneys recognized as industry leaders for business and corporate law in the 2015 North Carolina edition of *Super Lawyers*.

Joey P. Manlapaz, BA '77, MFA '80, exhibited her

new painting “Hooked on You” at Gallery Plan B’s 10th anniversary exhibition in Washington, D.C. Her full collection can be viewed at joeymanlapaz.com.

Laurence S. Litow, BS '78, has been added as a partner in the Fort Lauderdale, Fla., office of Burr & Forman LLP. Mr. Litow is a member of the firm’s commercial litigation practice group and has experience representing Fortune 500 companies, as well as government agencies and financial institutions.

Alex Nyerges, BA '79, MA '82, was honored by the French government as a knight in the Order of Arts and Letters, an international association of leaders recognized for their contributions toward promoting international relations with France. Mr. Nyerges is an executive committee member of the French Regional and American Museum Exchange and most recently spearheaded the move of FRAME’s headquarters from Dallas to Richmond, Va.

80s

Carolyn Page, BA '82, will have her story “Marksberry Road” published in the April 2015 issue of the *New England Review*.

Seth Price, JD '82, has been included in the 2015 Georgia edition of *Super Lawyers*. Mr. Price is a shareholder in Chamberlain Hrdlicka’s Atlanta office and focuses his practice on construction litigation.

Peter J. Roberts, MA '82, helped design genetic genealogy software tools for Wikitree. He also delivered presentations on DNA and ancestry to the Sons of the American Revolution, Clan McKinnon, and the Green Turtle Cay Island Roots Heritage Festival. Mr. Roberts is a speaker for the International Society of Genetic Genealogy and welcomes contact and queries at peterebay@yahoo.com.

Susan Ellis Wild, JD '82, has been appointed as the first female city solicitor of Allentown, Pa. Ms. Wild is a partner at Gross McGinley and will maintain her private law practice in addition to her new responsibilities as the city’s chief legal officer.

Kay Jackson, MFA '84, exhibited “Malthusian Paintings, 25 Years and Counting” at the Addison/Ripley Fine Art gallery

in Washington, D.C. Ms. Jackson says, “the symbolism of a crowd not only represents the world’s growing population but also serves as a model for artistically exploring motion, light and abstraction reflected in the urban environment’s symphony of figures.”

Bob Flisser, BBA '85, was elected to a three-year term on the board of directors for the Business Improvement District of Flemington, N.J.

Adam Brookman, JD '87, was elected treasurer at Boyle Fredrickson, Wisconsin’s largest intellectual property law firm.

Brian A. Malone, MPA '87, retired from the Central Intelligence Agency after almost 37 years of service and is now vice president of N-Ask Inc., a recognized expert provider of software solutions, advanced signal processing, and algorithm development for the U.S. intelligence community and the federal government.

90s

Maria Strong, JD '90, was appointed deputy director of policy and international affairs at the United States Copyright Office in January 2015. Before joining the copyright office in 2010, Ms. Strong spent almost 20 years in private practice in Washington, D.C., working on international trade and copyright matters.

Timothy A. Waire Jr., BS '91, joined the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation as chief information officer in January 2015. Prior to joining the foundation, Mr. Waire held executive management positions at Quest Diagnostics and Constellation Energy Group.

Salvatore Zambri, JD '92, was listed in Best Lawyer’s 2015 “Best lawyers in America” for personal injury law and was named among the top 10 of the more than 80,000 attorneys in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area by *Super Lawyers*.

Jay Moskowitz, BBA '93, has joined City Point Partners as marketing manager, where he will supervise the firm’s marketing activities and manage its strategic marketing initiatives. Mr. Moskowitz is an 11-year veteran of the architecture, engineering and construction industries.

Roger Medd, MA '95, published *The Voiceprint of God: Recognizing and Following*

His Voice (CreateSpace, 2014). The book, he writes, takes a “fresh look at the topic of hearing God’s voice.” Mr. Medd has over 30 years of engineering experience.

Srikant Sastry, JD ’95, was honored with a Minority Business Leader Award from the *Washington Business Journal*. Mr. Sastry currently serves as the national managing principal of advisory services at Grant Thornton LLP in Alexandria, Va.

Howard Goldstein, BA ’97, was promoted to vice president of FoodMinds LLC. Mr. Goldstein’s nutrition affairs programs have garnered national recognition, including Hass Avocado Board’s “Love One Today” campaign, which was named a finalist for *PRWeek’s* 2015 Product Brand Development Campaign of the Year and the “Keep Potatoes in Schools” campaign that won a 2012 Gold SABRE public affairs award.

Michael Post, JD ’97, has been promoted from deputy general counsel to general counsel of regulatory affairs at the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board. He is currently a legal and policy adviser to the MSRB and its board of directors.

John Guevara, BA ’98, is the Republican nominee for Sully District supervisor on the Fairfax County, Va., Board of Supervisors in November’s general election. Mr. Guevara was on the Parent Teacher Organization Board at Navy Elementary in Fairfax for two terms and was vice president of his homeowners association for several years. He has lived in Sully, Va., for the last 15 years with his high school sweetheart, Marilyn. They have two sons, Peter and Nathan, both of whom attend Fairfax County public schools.

Andrew Kozma, BA ’98, had his short story “Lullaby” featured in an exhibition of reinterpreted works by the Brothers Grimm, *A Long Time Ago: The Fairy Tales of Mandy Altimus Pond*, at Lynden Gallery in Elizabethtown, Pa. His poems have appeared in *Blackbird*, *Subtropics*, *Qualm*, and *Copper Nickel*. Mr. Kozma’s book of poems, *City of Regret* (Zone 3 Press, 2007), also won the Zone 3 First Book Award.

Jason Daniel Myers, BA ’98, had his short story “Snow and Aysel” featured in an exhibition of reinterpreted works by the Brothers Grimm, *A Long Time Ago: The Fairy Tales of Mandy Altimus Pond*, at Lynden Gallery in Elizabethtown, Pa. Mr. Myers’ most recent work was published in *Cthulhu Haiku II: More Mythos Madness*. His online serial urban fantasy (*BigTroubleInLittleCanton.org*) will be featured in a forthcoming role-playing game sourcebook.

Calvin K. Woo, JD ’98, has been elected partner at Verrill Dana. Mr. Woo maintains a diverse commercial and civil litigation practice, representing Fortune 500 companies, middle-market and closely-held businesses, and individuals in complex business, civil and employment disputes.

Karen Herman, JD ’99, has been elected to partner of Crowell & Moring LLP and is a member of the firm’s corporate group.

Paul J. Labov, BA ’99, has joined the New York office of Fox Rothschild LLP as a partner in the financial restructuring and bankruptcy practice. Mr. Labov represents a variety of stakeholders in Chapter 11 bankruptcy proceedings, out of court restructurings and liquidations, including hedge funds, insurance companies, commercial banking institutions and trade creditors.

Alexandre M. Mestdagh, BA ’99, was appointed to the Central Florida Real Estate Council Board of Directors. Currently Mr. Mestdagh is the managing partner of Mestdagh & Wall, a boutique law firm based in Maitland, Fla.

Ritu Kaur Cooper, BA ’00, has joined the Washington, D.C., office of Hall, Render, Killian, Health & Lyman as a shareholder. Ms. Cooper has always focused her practice on health care compliance matters. She has also been named to the Lawyers of Color *Hot List* since its inaugural edition in 2013.

Amy Reich, BBA ’00, was elected by the Association of Fundraising Professionals’ Long Island chapter as a first-term member of the board of directors. Ms. Reich is the senior director for alumni affairs at Hofstra University in Long Island, N.Y., where she oversees all alumni-related outreach

and special events. Prior to her time at Hofstra, she worked as director of advisory boards at the Jewish Theological Seminary in Manhattan.

Christopher L. Soriano, BA ’00, has been promoted to partner at Duane Morris LLP. Mr. Soriano concentrates his practice on gaming law and commercial litigation in the firm’s trial practice group.

Babatunde Kayode Oloyede, CERT ’01, AS ’02, BS ’04, MS ’07, won the 2014 Junior Officer of the Year Award from the North Carolina Commissioned Officers Association. He was also selected in 2014 as a member of the Council of Medical Laboratory Professionals by the American Society for Clinical Pathology.

Arthur Blain, MBA ’01, was appointed to chief medical officer of Mountain Health and Community Services in Campo, Calif.

Brigitte Dias Ferreira, LLM ’01, and Hernan L. Bentolila, LLM ’02, were married in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in July 2014. The couple currently resides in Arlington, Va. Ms. Ferreira works as counsel for international affairs at John Deere, and Mr. Bentolila serves as international counsel for Bristol Myers Squibb.

Kimberly Gilbert, MFA ’01, won a 2015 Helen Hayes Award in the Outstanding Lead Actress in a Play (Hayes) category for her performance as the title character in the Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company’s production of *Marie Antoinette*.

Seth J. Gillihan, MA ’01, co-authored a book with Janet Singer called *Overcoming OCD: A Journey to Recovery* (Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2015). The book documents the recovery of Ms. Singer’s son from severe OCD through exposure and response prevention therapy. Dr. Gillihan provides expert commentary throughout the book on topics related to OCD.

Suzanna Morales, BBA ’01, has joined Fox Rothschild LLP as counsel in the firm’s New York office. Ms. Morales represents clients in a wide array of intellectual property litigation and trademark prosecution.

Timothy Tobin, EdD ’02, published *Your Leadership Story: Use Your Story to Energize, Inspire, and Motivate* (Berrett-Koehler

Publishers, 2015). He writes that by “thinking of your career as a narrative—with a plot, characters, and an arc—you can increase your awareness of yourself as a leader and become more effective, insightful and inspiring.”

Jay Boyles, BA ’03, and Liz Cozart, MA ’09, were married in February in McLean, Va. Mr. Boyles is a student at the Marine Corps Command & Staff College in Quantico, Va. Ms. Cozart is on staff at McLean Presbyterian Church and a student at the Reformed Theological Seminary.

Marcie Feinman, BS ’03, MD ’07, was recruited to Sinai Hospital in Baltimore as a trauma/acute care surgeon. Dr. Feinman completed her fellowship in surgical critical care and acute care surgery at Johns Hopkins University in 2014.

Habeeba Park, BS ’03, was recruited to Sinai Hospital in Baltimore as a trauma/acute care surgeon. Dr. Park also was selected as a volunteer to the Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma’s injury control and violence prevention section. She completed her fellowship in trauma and surgical critical care at the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center at the University of Maryland Medical Center in 2014.

Erik F. Yassenoff, BA ’03, has been appointed by Ohio Gov. John Kasich to serve as deputy director for general services at the Department of Administrative Services. For the past four years, Mr. Yassenoff has served on the governor’s staff as his assistant director of policy for asset management, advising in policy areas that include taxation, transportation and gambling.

Brian Cocca, JD ’04, has been elected to partner in the Malvern, Pa., office of Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young. Mr. Cocca focuses his practice on intellectual property issues, with a concentration on drafting and prosecuting patent applications in the biotechnology and pharmaceutical fields.

Julie Gordon, BA ’04, joined the staff of the *New York Post* as deputy editor of *PageSix.com*. Previously, she worked as the entertainment and style editor of the newspaper *amNewYork*.

Alessandra Mediago, BA ’04, and her husband, James Edward Agnew II welcomed the arrival of

their first child, Julia Rose Agnew, on July 3, 2014. She writes, “Julia already has a full wardrobe of Colonials attire and cannot wait to visit campus for the first time.”

Chevon Brooks, JD '05, has been promoted to partner with Traub Lieberman Straus & Shrewsbury LLP in New York. Mr. Brooks is an insurance and litigation defense attorney who specializes in the defense of property and casualty matters in both federal and New York state courts.

Katy Chang, JD '05, added Baba's Dumpling and Soup Noodles to the menu of EatsPlace, her neighborhood restaurant and bar that she describes as a “food incubator and restaurant accelerator” in Washington, D.C. Ms. Chang is the founder of this community kitchen and marketplace and frequently hosts guest chef residencies. Along with hand-kneaded dumplings and soup noodles, Ms. Chang will also be featuring her Baba's Cooking School line of award-winning hot sauce and a new line of bitters.

Jessica Federer, BS '05, is chief digital officer of Bayer, a multinational pharmaceutical and chemical corporation. Previously, Ms. Federer was a program analyst at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, helping to facilitate nationwide discussion on a variety of pressing health care topics.

Seth Linnick, BBA '05, an attorney at Tucker Ellis LLP, has been recognized as an “Ohio Rising Star” for 2015.

Blaine Rummel, MPA '05, was appointed director of communications for the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees. Most recently Mr. Rummel served as director of special projects in the communications department, where he prepared the union for its upcoming legislative and judicial challenges.

Stephen J. McBrady, JD '06, has been elected to partner of Crowell & Moring LLP and is currently a member of the firm's government contracts group.

Christina J. McCollough, JD '06, has been promoted to partner at Perkins Coie. Ms. McCollough is a member of the litigation practice group, with a primary focus on patent litigation

and appeals, in the firm's Seattle office.

Rachel Adcox, JD '07, a member of Axinn, Veltrop & Harkrider LLP's antitrust group, has been promoted to partner. Ms. Adcox represents both foreign and domestic clients before the U.S. Justice Department and Federal Trade Commission in mergers, civil non-merger matters and criminal cartel investigations.

Amanda Dubin, BS '07, and Kelly Meyer founded a baby clothing company called Luc&Lou. For every onesie purchased, a new onesie is donated to a baby in need. Previously, they both worked as neonatal ICU nurses where, Ms. Dubin writes, they “shared the same dream to make a positive impact on the world by helping babies in need.” For more information on their products and story, visit lucandlou.com.

Dawn Ursula, MFA '07, was nominated for a 2015 Helen Hayes Award in the Outstanding Lead Actress in a Play (Hayes) category, for her role in *We Are Proud to Present a Presentation About the Herero of Namibia, Formerly Known as South-West Africa, From the German Sudwestafrika, Between the Years 1884-1915*, by Washington, D.C.'s Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company.

Brian C. Willis, JD '07, was a panelist at Tampa Bay Startup Week, where he discussed “fostering a start-up and innovation ecosystem.” Mr. Willis is an associate at Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick LLP, where he represents individuals and corporations involved in business, contract and real estate disputes.

Michael Hissam, JD '08, has been elected partner in the firm Bailey & Glasser LLP.

Alex Lawson, MPP '08, is the executive director of Social Security Works, a nonprofit organization that advocates for protecting and expanding the program. His organization published *Social Security Works!: Why Social Security Isn't Going Broke and How Expanding It Will Help Us All* (The New Press, 2015).

Andrea Mazzone, BA '08, and **Christopher Bourque, BS '09**, are engaged to be married in August 2015. Ms. Mazzone is a defense analyst for Booz Allen Hamilton in Washington, D.C., and Lt. Bourque is stationed in D.C. with the U.S.

Navy Ceremonial Guard.

Vance Renfroe, CERT '08, has been appointed professor of leadership and elected a senior fellow of New Westminster College, in Vancouver, Canada. He will be working with New Westminster College's expansion and transition toward university status. Col. Renfroe retired from the U.S. Air Force and is currently president of Renfroe Associates International. His company is engaged in a wide range of business development in the Middle East, North Africa, India and the United States.

Amy Rizzotto, BA '08, founded her own yoga studio, Yoga Heights, and opened a small business called MOARfit, where she works with clients on customized yoga and nutrition programs. After living in France and Senegal for a few years, working in San Francisco for a global philanthropy nonprofit, and spending three years as a major gifts fundraiser for the African Wildlife Foundation in Washington, D.C., Ms. Rizzotto writes that she “decided to turn her personal passion into a new career path.”

April Salomon, MA '08, was named executive director of the Musical Instrument Museum. Ms. Salomon, who served as MIM's acting director for the past six months, joined the museum in 2007 and assisted with the design, staffing, collection acquisition and launch of the \$250 million museum. Previously, she worked for other cultural and educational institutions including the Heard Museum, the Institute of Learning Innovation and the Smithsonian Institution.

Jonathan Freidin, BA '09, has joined Freidin Dobrinsky Brown & Rosenblum, P.A., as an associate. He will concentrate his practice in the areas of plaintiffs' personal injury, medical malpractice and product liability.

10s Alfred S. Boone, MS '10, a major in the U.S. Army, has been selected as professor of military science at Rutgers University in New Jersey.

Alson James Mckenna, JD '11, has joined Harter Secrest & Emery LLP as an associate in the firm's Rochester, N.Y., office. Mr. McKenna will work in the real estate practice group, negotiating, analyzing and drafting commercial

purchase and sales agreements, leases, construction and mortgage loan documents, and other real estate-related agreements.

Andrea S. Peterson, MTA '12, joined Metropolitan State University of Denver's Department of Hospitality, Tourism and Events as a full-time faculty member in August 2014, after serving as an affiliate since the previous fall. She recently authored a chapter, “Marketing the Meeting,” in the sixth edition of the Professional Convention Management Association's Professional Meeting Management, which was published in January and is widely available as a curriculum textbook within the industry.

Mari Mora Trubenbach, BA '12, worked with Operation of Hope, a volunteer surgical team, to provide Blessing Makwera, a now 22-year-old man from Zimbabwe, with free facial reconstructive surgeries from Sharp Memorial Hospital in San Diego. Ms. Trubenbach has gone on surgical missions since she was 12 and currently is the road manager for Enrique Iglesias.

Patrick Gillen, MS '13, was awarded a 2015 Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center Pacific research fellowship. His research focuses on predicting events using big data analysis. Currently, Mr. Gillen is working toward a master's degree in computer science at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, Calif.

William Giltinan, LLM '13, has been elected a shareholder of Carlton Fields Jordan Burt. Mr. Giltinan is a member of several of the firm's practice groups, including corporate, information security/data breach, nonprofit organizations, and intellectual property and technology, enforcement and protection.

Muhammad Faysal Islam, PhD '13, a lead engineer with Booz Allen Hamilton and adjunct professor at the School of Engineering and Applied Science, is the 2015 president-elect of the International Council on Systems Engineering Washington metro-area chapter. Dr. Islam will assume the responsibilities of the INCOSE WMA presidency in 2016.

Nicole Picard, BS '14, is a new member of the Brooklynettes, the professional dance team of the NBA's Brooklyn Nets. She performs at Nets home games at Barclays

Center in Brooklyn, N.Y., as well as at national and international NBA events.

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

EMAIL magazine@gwu.edu
MAIL *Alumni News Section*
GW Magazine
2121 Eye Street, NW
Suite 501
Washington, DC 20052

IN MEMORIAM

Kenneth W. Donelson, AA '47, LLB '49

Jan. 2, 2015
Sequim, Wa.

E. Scott Dillon, LLB '48

Sept. 17, 2014
Gaithersburg, Md.

Thomas W. Smith, BA '48, JD '49

Jan. 1, 2015
Falls Church, Va.

John R. DeBarr, JD '50

Dec. 28, 2014
Riverside, Calif.

Warren E. Finken, JD '51

Feb. 25, 2015
Delray Beach, Fla.

Edwin S. Nail, JD '51

Jan. 19, 2015

Edward Solomon Jr., LLB '51

Jan. 3, 2015
Ebensburg, Pa.

Peter A. Cerick, AA '52, BA '53

Jan. 30, 2015
Herndon, Va.

Albert L. Jeffers, JD '52

Aug. 10, 2013
McAllen, Texas

R. J. Kenny, JD '53

Oct. 13, 2014

Walter M. Meginniss, JD '54

Dec. 31, 2014
Tallahassee, Fla.

Elli S. Riisman, LLM '55

Dec. 24, 2014
Washington, D.C.

Keith B. Romney, JD '55

Jan. 21, 2015
Salt Lake City

Frieda S. Shapiro, JD '57

Dec. 10, 2014

John P. Craven, JD '58

Feb. 12, 2015
Honolulu

Edgar B. May, LLB '59

Jan. 19, 2015
Washington, D.C.

Vida M. Baugh, JD '61

Aug. 3, 2014
Alexandria, Va.

Edward W. Nypaver, JD '61

Jan. 10, 2015
Dayton, Ohio

John Preston Creer III, JD '62

Jan. 30, 2015
Salt Lake City

Robert H. Quenon, JD '64

Nov. 19, 2013
Ladue, Mo.

William T. Deitz, JD '68

Jan. 27, 2015
Stuart, Fla.

Richard D. Gilroy, JD '68

Jan. 25, 2015
Indianapolis

Harris Elliott Coleman, LLM '72

Dec. 31, 2014
Olney, Md.

Mark D. Blocher, JD '73, LLM '78

Feb. 10, 2015
Cincinnati

Anne Stowell Davidson, JD '74

June 18, 2014
Morristown, N.J.

Richard Max Ginsburg, JD '74

March 1, 2015
Hillsboro, Ore.

T. Jay Thompson, LLM '76

Jan. 5, 2015

William Boyd Wharton, SJD '79

Oct. 9, 2014
Alvin, Texas

Jackie Ling Der, JD '80

March 2, 2015
Seattle

Elmer Culberston Hulen, JD '81

Sept. 30, 2014
Davidson, N.C.

Thomas Anthony Zupanc, LLM '82

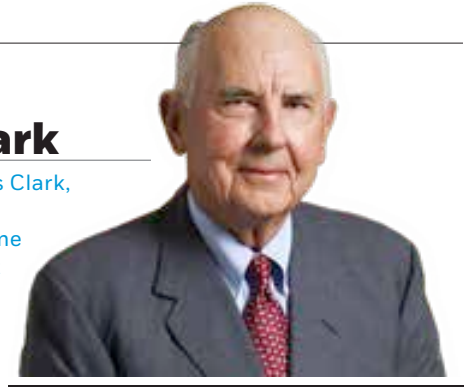
Jan. 29, 2015
St. Cloud, Minn.

REMEMBERING

A. James Clark

Trustee emeritus A. James Clark, HON '10, whose Clark Enterprises grew to become one of the nation's largest contracting companies, died on March 20 at his home in Easton, Md., of congestive heart failure. He was 87. Mr. Clark's

company presided over landmark GW facilities, including the new Science and Engineering Hall, as well as local projects including the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian, FedEx Field and Nationals Park. At GW, he established an endowed professorship in 1986 and, in 2011, the A. James Clark Engineering Scholars program.



Laura Finamore

Among the eight killed in the May 12 derailment of an Amtrak train was Laura Finamore, BA '90. Ms. Finamore, 47, lived in Manhattan and was a senior account director at Cushman & Wakefield, a corporate real estate firm. She was a native of Queens, N.Y. Amtrak's Northeast Regional Train 188, carrying 243 people, derailed in Philadelphia while en route to New York City from Washington, D.C.

Eddie LeBaron

Decorated veteran and former NFL quarterback Eddie LeBaron, LLB '59, died April 1 in Stockton, Calif. He was 85. The 5-foot-7 Mr. LeBaron — nicknamed the "Little General" — played 11 NFL seasons, seven for Washington and four for Dallas, while getting his law degree. He retired from football in 1963 and practiced law until 1997. A Marine, Mr. LeBaron was twice wounded in Korea and later awarded the Bronze Star and two Purple Hearts.

Marjorie Townsend

Marjorie Townsend, BS '51, the first woman to earn an engineering degree from GW and the first woman to manage a U.S. space launch, died April 4. She was 85. Ms. Townsend joined NASA in 1959 and went on to lead the Small Astronomy Satellite program, eventually overseeing the development and launch of the first X-ray astronomy satellite. She also was instrumental in the creation of weather satellites. Ms. Townsend retired in 1980.



UPCOMING SHOWS BY GW PROFESSORS

ARTISTS' QUARTER



Dong Soh, BFA '15, used a 3-D printer to give shape to the fanciful figurines he created for a thesis exhibition this spring.

Square Dancing With a 3-D Printer

When the Corcoran School of the Arts and Design unveiled its end-of-the-year thesis exhibition, NEXT, this spring (Pg. 10), a group of little plastic dragons celebrated the opening with more revelry than anyone in the gallery. The winged creatures had completed a journey through a 3-D printer to become part of “Square Dancing with Dragons,” an installation so chipper it seemed to come alive if you stared hard enough.

The buoyant spirit of the piece—a gaggle of nine diminutive dragons—is not a surprise, coming from artist Dong Soh, BFA '15, who says his childhood essentially took place in animated worlds. He grew up with video game controllers perennially at his fingertips, using the buttons to traipse through Game Boy and Nintendo landscapes. He paid attention to the lines that made up Super Mario, Megaman, Sonic and Pokemon characters, and consumed cartoons and anime from his parents' native South Korea, the epicenter of animation.

After picking up video game design skills

at Washington State's DigiPen Institute of Technology, Mr. Soh went to the Corcoran School to perfect his drawing and animation. But for NEXT, he decided to take his art to another level. He wanted to bring his illustrations to life, to make the characters “spring off the computer screen,” he says.

The problem was that clay, wood and other mediums he tried couldn't quite capture the mix of globular shapes and jutting angles that he created digitally.

“Why can't you get something as sharp

He wanted to bring his illustrations to life, to make the characters “spring off the computer screen,” he says.

as those?” he recalls Professor of Art and Design Janis Goodman asking one day, while gesturing toward Mr. Soh's meticulous sketches. He suggested trying a 3-D printer.

The burgeoning technology offered razor-sharp precision. Still, the process was its own dance, with missteps and trial and error. Mr. Soh would spend six to eight hours designing characters in a 3-D program, then turn to another piece of software to ensure the geometry would print just so; yet another program would give him the file to inject into the 3-D printer.

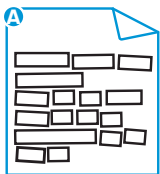
The printer might spit out inverted or collapsed pieces of plastic, and Mr. Soh would have to start again from the beginning. But eventually, he generated charming characters that previously had existed only as flat figures on a computer.

“One of my favorite artists, Makoto Fujimura, writes about how art can bring happiness to other people,” Mr. Soh says. “I think that's what ‘Square Dancing with Dragons’ does, and the 3-D printer helped me get there.” —**Julyssa Lopez**

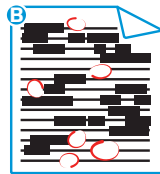
INSTITUTIONAL KNOWLEDGE

WORDS

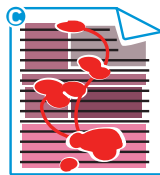
Alumna **Elizabeth Acevedo's** brand of poetry—slam poetry—is a highly specialized, intricately crafted art (“...On Slam Poetry,” Pg. 15), but poetry can be anything. An exhibit at GW’s Brady Gallery tested that in May, when it had visitors create “found poems” by redacting, reordering, refashioning or colorizing a canvas of words made from a few pages of Oscar Wilde’s *The Picture of Dorian Gray*.



A Cut, paste and reorder the words



B Redact, highlight



C Refashion and colorize

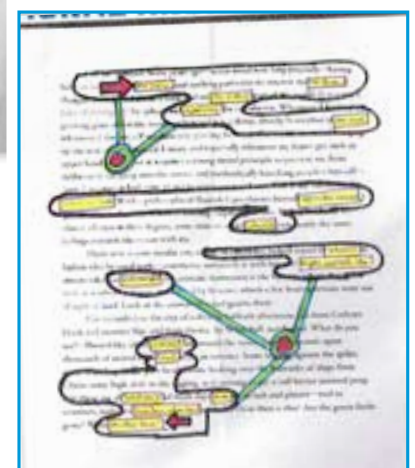
Call me Ishmael. Some years ago—never mind how long precisely—having little or no money in my purse, and nothing particular to interest me on shore, I thought I would sail about a little and see the watery part of the world. It is a way I have of driving off the spleen and regulating the circulation. Whenever I find myself growing grim about the mouth; whenever it is a damp, drizzly November in my soul; whenever I find myself involuntarily pausing before coffin warehouses, and bringing up the rear of every funeral I meet; and especially whenever my hypos get such an upper hand of me, that it requires a strong moral principle to prevent me from deliberately stepping into the street, and methodically knocking people’s hats off—then, I account it high time to get to sea as soon as I can. This is my substitute for pistol and ball. With a philosophical flourish Cato throws himself upon his sword; I quietly take to the ship. There is nothing surprising in this. If they but knew it, almost all men in their degree, some time or other, cherish very nearly the same feelings towards the ocean with me.

There now is your insular city of the Manhattoes, belted round by wharves as Indian isles by coral reefs—commerce surrounds it with her surf. Right and left, the streets take you waterward. Its extreme downtown is the battery, where that noble mole is washed by waves, and cooled by breezes, which a few hours previous were out of sight of land. Look at the crowds of water-gazers there.

Circumambulate the city of a dreamy Sabbath afternoon. Go from Corlears Hook to Coenties Slip, and from thence, by Whitehall, northward. What do you see?—Posted like silent sentinels all around the town, stand thousands upon thousands of mortal men fixed in ocean reveries. Some leaning against the spiles; some seated upon the pier-heads; some looking over the bulwarks of ships from China; some high aloft in the rigging, as if striving to get a still better seaward peep. But these are all landmen; of week days pent up in lath and plaster—tied to counters, nailed to benches, clinched to desks. How then is this? Are the green fields gone? What do they here?

Make Your Own

Following that example, here are the first 380 words of Chapter One of Herman Melville’s classic, *Moby-Dick*. Use this page, or download the text from magazine.gwu.edu, and create your own sonnet, ode or haiku, the next *Prufrock*—whatever you want. Send it back to us by mail, email or with the Twitter hashtag #GWFoundPoetry. We’ll publish some of the poems in the fall issue.



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