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“One of the most promising new solutions [to the] problems that plague the student loan industry.”

The Washington Post
GW VALOR, a new universitywide effort to serve and support military students, was launched in May.

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Refining Our Focus

One of the first things I noticed when I came to campus 15 years ago was the presence of students in military uniform walking to and from class. While GW is known for being “four blocks from the White House,” we also are just three Metro stops from the Pentagon. It makes sense that we have been educating military members and veterans for decades, just as we have been educating members of Congress and others in seats of national and world power.

The university redoubled its commitment to veterans and military students in recent years, as our feature in this edition explains. GW has launched a comprehensive program to provide opportunities and support to military students and veterans, including online courses for active-duty service members as well as programs that build on skills obtained during military service.

As GW looks toward its bicentennial in the year 2021, the university also has charted a course for a new strategic plan (see page 46), which will guide the university in the next decade to best meet its goals of educating the next generation, advancing human knowledge through research, and serving society.

Of prime importance to that plan is a continued focus on research. Two stories in this edition showcase our faculty’s strengths in health care policy research as it relates to the Affordable Care Act as well as the study of evolutionary origins, which has practical applications to today’s world (think identifying the makeup of a bacterial “superbug” or of an invasive insect or plant species).

But not all news in this edition is so serious. We had one of our most fun and successful alumni weekends ever, thanks to Alumni House, which organized a spectacular weekend. If you missed it, please consider joining us next year. Fall is a great time to come back and visit GW. And basketball season is just around the corner.

Heather O. Milke
EDITOR
As the father of a junior and an avid reader, I want to congratulate you on the new, improved GW Magazine. It is excellent, and your choices are all on the mark. Entertaining, inspiring, informative, with quality showing throughout, it is a tremendous improvement and a wonderful achievement. I look forward to more issues over the years to come.

Michael W. Hussin, parent
Pelham, Mass.

Bravo! Cheers! Your new “GW Magazine, 4.0” is stunning!

I have been getting the GW Magazine since 1990 and various other university publications since graduating in 1984. They would usually be received and added to my “read later” stack, which I would get to weeks later. However, when today’s GW Magazine landed on my desk, I had to read it.

It was engaging, topical, and very well designed. As a former graphics editor at schools and business publications, I appreciate the professional layout, color, and “fun” incorporated into the concise, appealing, and useful information about GW. I especially enjoyed reading the feature about the business plan competition and the cover story about chef José Andrés’ food course.

Finally, after reading the tributes about former GW President Lloyd Elliott, I am even more proud to have had the opportunity to study during his tenure and have his signature on my diploma hanging on my office wall.

Thanks again for all the efforts, and I look forward to reading both the online and printed GW Magazine. It’s making an impact! Encore!

Michael Ryan, BA ’84
San Francisco

Food for Thought

Just wanted to say thank you for the recent article “Food for Thought” about chef José Andrés and GW’s food initiatives. Kudos to GW for taking on this issue in a big way by bringing expert voices, resources, and key research to the “table.” I’m an Elliott School alumna now working at the Capital Area Food Bank, the largest hunger relief organization in D.C., serving half a million people through its 700 partners—including D.C. Central Kitchen, Martha’s Table, and other lesser known pantries like the one adjacent to the GW campus at 19th and G streets.

Ella Daniels, MA ’10
Washington, D.C.

In 1962, the engineering school dean invited alumni to a meeting to re-establish the engineering alumni association. I volunteered as assistant secretary—other members who also volunteered were Bill Ellenberger, Larry Brown, Doug Jones, and Delaney DeButs.

In 1965, I was elected president, and we held regular meetings in my office on L Street. The engineering school had recently undergone a review, which produced a report with recommendations. We obtained a copy and found that the recommendations included the discontinuation of the night school. Since most on the board had benefited from attending night school and graduating while we were working, we were alarmed.

We decided to produce a report with our own recommendations to present to GW President Lloyd Elliott. As the alumni association’s president, I was expected to present this document. I was not used to speaking in public, and this task made me extremely nervous. We had produced this document after a number of meetings and prepared for the presentation using cue cards.

I found Dr. Elliott very friendly and interested in what we had to say, so much so that my nervousness disappeared and I relaxed for the presentation. I felt we had achieved our goal in calling out our concerns to the man who could implement our suggestions.

The recommendations that we came up with were put in place, and the engineering school has prospered to this day.

E. A. (Bud) Wareham III, BS ’53
Fort Myers, Fla.

More Memories: GW President Lloyd Elliott, 1918–2013

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A Lack of Thought

I read the story about chef José Andrés, “Food for Thought,” with great interest and disappointment. You erroneously praise Mr. Andrés without giving consideration to the tragic hypocrisy of his message. His menu consists of abused animals that are unhealthy to eat, including diseased livers from tortured ducks and geese used to produce foie gras, a food so cruel that it is illegal to make and sell in 14 countries and California.

If the GW community wants to learn how to support environmentally sustainable food, they should explore the benefits of plant-based eating—the most effective way to reduce their carbon footprint and maintain optimal health while showing compassion for animals.

Andrew Kirchner, BA ’93
Boca Raton, Fla.

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Andrew Kirchner, BA ’93
Boca Raton, Fla.

All Write!

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The dynamism of the place, the energy of the students, the passion of the faculty... It’s almost impossible, once you’ve been exposed to that, not to be affected by this contagious optimism for the future. **BEN VINSON, NEW COLUMBIAN COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES DEAN**

In August, Gelman Library debuted an airy new entrance level, featuring expanded student space that opens onto Kogan Plaza. The library’s former entrance, only accessible on H Street, has been converted into additional student workspace and some staff work areas. The new entrance includes an outdoor patio, dining area, and...

**The Library’s New Look**

Gelman Library opened a brand-new entrance level for fall.
convenient wheelchair access.

“Walking through the new entry floor was an incredible capstone to a project that we started over three and a half years ago,” says former Student Association president Jason Lifton, BA ’11, who collected student feedback about Gelman Library when he was serving in the SA. “While many of the students who were part of that initial process have since graduated and moved on, I know that we are very happy to have left our impact on GW for future generations.”

The improved entrance floor incorporates a student lounge, laptop bars, learning commons, multimedia lab, and data visualization space, a new resource for the library.

“Exploring digital information using visual methods can help identify patterns in millions of documents and data sets that are difficult to identify using more traditional technologies,” says Geneva Henry, the new university librarian and vice provost for libraries.

“Visualization can also be useful in exploring re-creations of cultural and historic artifacts, including ancient cities that have been re-created based on archaeological finds,” she adds.

The renovation, which was planned with input from the GW community, was approved in May 2011 as part of the university’s FY 2012 budget.

Construction of the new entrance level, on the structure’s second floor, which formerly housed several library departments including administration, content management, and library IT, began soon after, during the summer of 2012.

Improvements to the library will continue with the upcoming construction of the National Churchill Library and Center, a partnership with the Churchill Centre to establish a major research center on Winston Churchill, on the first floor of the library.

For researchers who need high-performance computing for data analysis, GW has acquired—and is in the process of implementing—a new, shared, high-performance computing cluster named Colonial One.

Housed on GW’s Virginia Science and Technology Campus, Colonial One is a joint venture among the Division of Information Technology, Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, and the School of Medicine and Health Sciences. Colonial One’s high capacity and unprecedented scope are intended to encourage interdisciplinary partnerships across GW’s campuses.

“This computing facility is absolutely critical for research,” Vice President for Research Leo Chalupa said at a launch event in July. He added that the resource, which he hopes will be seen as a “powerhouse” across Virginia and well outside the region, will support in particular the university’s emphases on big data, genomics, and engineering.

David Steinour, chief information officer, added that Colonial One is emblematic of the strong relationship between the Division of Information Technology and the university’s many schools and departments.

“This is step one of many steps to build out what will become true high-performance computing...that will service research areas across the university and across divisions,” he said.
Spotlighting Women’s History

GW is working to raise the profile of women’s history by co-presenting a series of lectures with the National Women’s History Museum this year.

“Women’s history is largely missing from K-12 textbooks and most museum exhibits,” says NWHM President and CEO Joan Wages. “Less than 8 percent of the statues in our national parks are of women, and in our nation’s Capitol building only 15 of the 217 statues are of women leaders. We are really looking forward to working, through this partnership, to get women’s history out into the public.”

The four lectures called “Initiating Change/Adapting to Change” will take place in the fall and spring semesters and will focus on topics such as women effecting change, women in the military, and women in entrepreneurship. Speakers will be leaders in their fields and will present both historical and contemporary perspectives.

“We’re delighted to embark on this partnership with the National Women’s History Museum,” GW President Steven Knapp said at the series’ launch event in May. “The museum is a cultural institution devoted to an important subject area that is not only of great interest to our students but also a focus of many of our departments and programs—from our Global Women’s Institute and Women’s Leadership Program to our women’s studies and history departments.”

The collaboration is an important step for the museum, which is lobbying Congress to help fund a brick-and-mortar home. The museum’s exhibits are currently all online.

“We are really looking forward to working, through this partnership, to get women’s history out into the public.”

— Joan Wages,
NWHM President and CEO

Construction Begins to Connect Three Halls

The construction of a new residence hall at the location currently occupied by the eight-story West End, Schenley, and Crawford residence halls kicked into high gear this summer.

The university will retain the front portions of the existing residence halls and construct a new 12-story addition connecting them. Once completed, the residence hall will provide up to 894 beds—326 new beds—including faculty- and staff-in-residence apartment units. It will also include ground-floor retail along I Street, and two stories of below-grade space containing additional retail and student service space.

The university is planning to complete the project by summer 2016.
GW Launches Clinton Global Initiative Project

The university launched a three-year, $350,000 program this September that will offer resources, workshops, and prize money to support students with socially conscious ideas and ventures.

The program, called “GWupstart: Social Innovation Lab + Prize,” establishes GW’s membership in the Clinton Global Initiative University Network, a consortium of colleges and universities providing resources and opportunities for student innovators.

“By joining the Clinton Global Initiative and launching this innovative program, we will be giving our students the tools and resources they need to become successful social entrepreneurs and, in turn, help them shape the future of our nation and the world,” GW President Steven Knapp says.

The program is based in GW’s Center for Civic Engagement and Public Service and will support student entrepreneurs through co-curricular programs, special events, mentorship from experts in the field, and a new track in the GW Business Plan Competition.

The center’s staff members will work closely with the Office of Entrepreneurship and the School of Business’ Center for Entrepreneurial Excellence on programming for the Business Plan Competition’s new GWupstart Prize Track (see story page 14). This track focuses on nonprofit groups that aim for financial stability while using innovative ideas to tackle social issues or for-profit ventures that prioritize the social or environmental bottom line equally with profitability.

Students will compete for “Best Nonprofit Social Venture” and “Best For-Profit Social Venture” for a total of $15,000 in prize money. The prize will increase to $25,000 in years two and three of the program.

The GWupstart workshop series, which began in October, includes sessions held twice weekly on topics such as “Defining Your Vision for a Better World,” “Building a Team and Key Relationships,” and “Writing and Pitching Your World-Changing Venture.”

In 2012, GW hosted the Clinton Global Initiative University, an annual meeting of students, youth organizations, topic experts, and celebrities come together to discuss and develop innovative solutions to pressing global challenges. More than 1,000 students from all 50 states and 82 countries attended the event.

Easing the Burden of Unpaid Internships

It’s a difficult dilemma for students and recent graduates: Launching a career in their field often benefits from a period of working for free. As full-time unpaid internships become more common, applicants who can’t afford to work without pay can be put at a disadvantage when it comes to job-hunting.

GW is trying to help address this issue. In April, the Career Services Council launched the Knowledge in Action Career Internship Fund—an initiative of the development and philanthropy project team of the council.

Made possible through the support of alumni and parents, this program provides grants ranging from $1,000 to $3,000 to undergraduate and graduate students pursuing unpaid internships with non-profit, governmental, educational, and nongovernmental organizations with limited resources to pay interns.

The first 37 recipients, chosen from more than 170 applicants, received a total of $50,000. Interns worked with organizations across the globe, from the Mayo Clinic to the U.S. Embassy in Jakarta, Indonesia.

“It was a welcome relief when I was awarded a Knowledge in Action grant,” says Matthew Caldis, a graduate student studying health policy who will work on patient outreach and policy development with the Men’s Health Network, a national nonprofit that seeks to improve the health of men and boys.

“We hope that the Knowledge in Action Career Internship Fund inspires GW students to pursue unpaid internships that they might not have applied for in the past due to their financial constraints,” says Rachel Brown, council chair and assistant provost for university career services.

The Career Services Advisory Council plans additional funding cycles for the program this fall, spring, and summer, depending on available funding from donors.

To give to the fund, visit go.gwu.edu/donate and write “Knowledge in Action Internship Fund” in the “Other” category under “Purpose of Gift.”
A Colonial Introduction

For the fifth annual Freshman Day of Service in September, more than 2,400 students, faculty members, and staff members fanned out across the District to service projects at schools, parks, community centers, and veteran retirement facilities. They served in all eight wards of D.C., as well as locations in Virginia and Maryland. Donations from Clark Construction made service projects possible at two sites: McKinley Tech High School and the dog park in Foggy Bottom.

The event, now the Freshman Day of Service and Convocation, focused on the theme “Fulfilling the Dream of Democracy,” which connects the day to GW’s series commemorating the 150th anniversary of the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation and the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington. It featured remarks from university leaders, Wendy Spencer, CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service, and keynote speaker Roslyn Brock, MS ’89, GW trustee and chair of the national board of the NAACP.

Columbian College Welcomes New Dean

Ben Vinson III, an expert on Latin American history and former vice dean for centers, interdepartmental programs, and graduate programs at the Johns Hopkins University’s Zanvyl Krieger School of Arts and Sciences, is the new dean of GW’s oldest and largest school.

As dean of the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Vinson will be responsible for providing leadership, vision, and guidance to more than 40 academic departments and programs, 27 centers and institutes, and nearly 1,000 faculty members.

GW Provost Steve Lerman says the new dean “has deep experience in encouraging cross-disciplinary programs of the type that will be one of the cornerstones of the university’s strategic plan.”

Dr. Vinson says he is eager to emphasize collaboration not only within the CCAS faculty but also with other schools and departments, with students, and with local and national organizations. “Some of this already exists within Columbian College, but I think we can do even more.”

“The dynamism of the place, the energy of the students, the passion of the faculty—these are things that I find terribly exciting,” he says. “It’s almost impossible, once you’ve been exposed to that, not to be affected by this contagious optimism for the future.”

Dr. Vinson’s scholarship focuses on colonial Mexico, especially the African presence there. He is currently researching the colonial Latin American caste system.

In his vice dean role at Johns Hopkins, Dr. Vinson was an active member of the teaching faculty while leading initiatives and programs that linked departments and engaged the Zanvyl Krieger School of Arts and Sciences with other parts of the university. He also oversaw the school’s centers and graduate programs and played a key role in the school’s strategic planning process.

Dr. Vinson earned a bachelor’s degree from Dartmouth College and a doctorate from Columbia University. He succeeds Peg Barratt, who led Columbian College for five years before announcing last spring her decision to return to full-time faculty status. Dr. Barratt is spending the upcoming academic year pursuing research in early childhood development in Japan with a Fulbright scholarship.
“Service to others, my friends, is the rent we pay for the space we occupy.”

Roslyn Brock, MS ‘89, chair of the national board of the NAACP and a GW trustee, delivered the keynote address at September’s Freshman Day of Service and convocation. This year’s theme was “Fulfilling the Dream of Democracy,” which connects the day of service to GW’s yearlong series, “Pro[Claiming] Freedom.” The events commemorate the 150th anniversary of the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation and the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington.

“You’ll find a much more disordered and a much more challenging world than maybe was the case 30 or 40 years ago—but it’s a world in which understanding, listening, and appreciating the value of having a strategy will be the paramount characteristics we need in this nation’s next generation of leaders.”

Michael Chertoff, former secretary of homeland security under President George W. Bush and chair of GW’s Cybersecurity Initiative, spoke in September at the Elliott School of International Affairs about making strategic homeland security decisions. The International Affairs Society, a student organization, sponsored the event.

“A group of people came together and they put forth the most unbelievable moment in American history.”

Rep. John Lewis (D-Ga.) was a guest on The Kalb Report commemorating the March on Washington’s 50th anniversary. In 1963, Rep. Lewis was the head of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and the youngest speaker at the march. Program host Marvin Kalb was there as a reporter for CBS News and witnessed Martin Luther King Jr.’s historic speech. Other guests included NAACP Chairman Emeritus Julian Bond, Ambassador Andrew Young, PBS NewsHour anchor Gwen Ifill, Morehouse College President John Wilson, and journalist Dorothy Gilliam, the first black woman hired as a reporter at the Washington Post.

“To use the vernacular, we can walk and chew gum at the same time. That’s what big powers do.”

Vice President Joe Biden, in response to the concern that increasing foreign policy attention on the Asia-Pacific region would cause the United States to neglect other international priorities. Mr. Biden spoke at an event hosted by the Center for American Progress in the Jack Morton Auditorium in July.
“It was 20 years in the making, and 50 years later, we’re still assessing whether the demands that were made were met. It wasn’t just a rally... There was a set of goals that are measurable.”

PBS NewsHour anchor Gwen Ifill, on The Kalb Report’s March on Washington special.

“The beauty of the March on Washington is that [Dr. King] was speaking to a large number of white people who had never seen a black person give an entire speech. ...He made it so clear and so plain that you could not help but say, ‘Gee, he’s making a real argument here, and we ought to listen to him.’”

NAACP Chairman Emeritus Julian Bond, on The Kalb Report’s March on Washington special program in August.

“What we need is a system...that recognizes we don’t grow this country from the financial sector. We grow this country from the middle class.”

Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), who attended GW from 1966 to 1968, and a panel of experts discussed the economic lessons gleaned from the collapse of Lehman Brothers at an event hosted by GW Law School’s Center for Law, Economics & Finance and Better Markets.

“It’s not right to ask men and women to go into harm’s way on behalf of the nation if there isn’t a political consensus supporting the mission that they have to sacrifice for.”

Sen. Tim Kaine (D-Va.) spoke in September at the Jack Morton Auditorium for the first in a series of debates on constitutional war powers sponsored by the Cross Examination Debate Association and the University of Virginia’s Miller Center.
**AT A GLANCE**

Learn more about GW’s smoke-free status at smokefree.gwu.edu.

**SMOKE-FREE GW**

All GW campuses officially became smoke free in August, prohibiting smoking in university-owned outdoor spaces, as well as public spaces adjacent to all residential, academic, athletic, recreational, and administrative support buildings. To encourage people to quit smoking, the university is also covering the cost of the American Cancer Society’s Quit for Life Program, which includes nicotine replacement therapy such as gum or patches.

**“BIG DATA” DEGREE**

GW has partnered with the IBM Academic Initiative to launch a Master of Science degree in business analytics, in which students will learn to analyze and manage “big data,” a catch-all term for the large data sets organizations collect to improve efficiency and develop strategies. In addition to the MS degree, a certificate program will be available.

**EDCORE GEARS UP**

The Education Consortium on Research and Evaluation, a research team led by the George Washington University’s Graduate School of Education and Human Development, has released two of five reports on the District of Columbia’s efforts to implement the D.C. Public Education Reform Amendment Act of 2007, which called for changes in business practices in local schools. EdCORE’s other current projects include an analysis of D.C. public school students participating in special education and STEM courses.

**COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE**

The 2014 GW Business Plan Competition kicked off in September, introducing some changes to the annual series of workshops and events. For the first time, the competition will offer a semesterlong series of lean start-up workshops, and a “social entrepreneurship” track will also be incorporated into the competition as part of the “GWupstart: Social Innovation Lab + Prize” (see story page 10). Teams will also be competing for more than $90,000 in prize money, up from $60,000 last year. Along with first-, second-, and third-place prizes, awards will be given out in categories including “Best Undergraduate,” “Older-Adult Focused Innovation,” “Best Sustainable Technology,” and “Audience Choice.”

**TEACHERS FOR AMERICA**

GW is one of the top 20 medium-size universities to contribute students to Teach for America’s 2013 corps, according to the list released by the nonprofit in September. GW took the fifth spot on the list, marking the second year in a row the university has been recognized as a top contributor. About 7 percent of GW graduates applied to Teach for America, and 37 of them were selected for the incoming corps. Over the past 23 years, 317 alumni have served in the Teach for America corps.

**POLITICAL PRIDE**

According to The Princeton Review, GW students are the nation’s most politically active. The recognition was included in the 2014 edition of The Best 378 Colleges, released in August, which used data collected from an online survey of 126,000 students across the nation. The most politically active designation was based on answers to the question “How popular are political/activist groups on your campus?” The Princeton Review also recognized GW among colleges in high-rated cities, schools with the most popular study abroad programs, best residence halls, and best college newspapers.

**PROCLAIMING FREEDOM**

To remember and celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation and the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington, GW is hosting a yearlong series of events to inspire reflection on democratic ideals and ongoing struggles for equality and freedom in America. Events commemorating the March on Washington included “Soundtrack of a Movement: Freedom Songs in Perspective,” which featured cinema, spoken word, and musical performances, as well as remarks from NAACP Chairman Emeritus Julian Bond. Visit diversity.gwu.edu/proclaiming-freedom for a full list of events.

**ARTS SCHOLARS AND FELLOWS**

As part of GW’s Arts Initiative, three faculty members were selected as incubator studio fellows and three artists were invited to campus as visiting GW artists and scholars in residence. The incubator studio fellows will receive a stipend or a teaching release to focus on creative research. The artists in residence are selected from the local community to produce work during a 10-month stay at the university. The incubator studio fellows are Dana Tai Soon Burgess, associate professor and chair of the Department of Theatre & Dance; Eugene Montague, assistant professor in the Department of Music; and Siobhan Rigg, an associate professor in the Department of Fine Arts and Art History.

This year’s artists and scholars in residence are Beverly Ress, whose colored-pencil still lifes explore scientific concepts; Sarah O’Halloran, an Irish composer whose work includes concert pieces, videos, and installations; and Stephen Wade, a Grammy-nominated folk artist whose work is informed by his travels through the United States.

**SMHS DIVERSITY DEAN**

The School of Medicine and Health Sciences named Yolanda Haywood, BS ’81, to spearhead its diversity and inclusion efforts. As associate dean for diversity, inclusion, and student affairs, Dr. Haywood will oversee the development, implementation, and assessment of programs to promote diversity within SMHS. She has been a longtime leader at GW, holding positions such as associate dean for student and curricular affairs and emergency medicine professor. Under Dr. Haywood’s leadership, SMHS will establish a new Office of Diversity and Inclusion.
Nelson Carbonell

The university’s newest chairman of the Board of Trustees is an entrepreneur, School of Engineering and Applied Science Hall of Fame member, 11-year GW board veteran, and scholarship founder.

Longtime university leader Nelson A. Carbonell, BS ’85, who most recently served as the board’s vice chairman, answered GW Magazine’s questions about his many GW ties.

Take us back to your senior year at GW. What was your undergraduate experience like? My undergraduate experience was very different from the experiences of my peers. In order to put myself through college, I worked nearly full time as a computer programmer at the Washington Consulting Group, a government contractor located a few blocks from campus. I would also occasionally drive a stretch limousine in the evenings for extra cash. I took a full load of classes in electrical engineering and graduated with distinction in 1985.

Looking back on it, I don’t know how I pulled it off. I know that one of the ingredients was very little sleep. However, I still kept an active social life and made many lifelong friends. I recall the experience with great fondness for what I learned, for the people I met, and for the invaluable experience I gained.

In your time serving on the board, which issues have you found most interesting? I have been on the board for more than a decade. During that time GW has made tremendous progress. I began my service when Steve Trachtenberg was president. His 19-year administration transformed the GW I knew from a small, regional institution to a national university with almost double the number of undergraduates. I joke with my alumni peers that many of us wouldn’t be admitted to today’s GW.

I think the search for a new president was the most important and interesting issue the board dealt with during my tenure. For my fellow trustees and me it was an opportunity to shape the future of GW in a significant way. I also had the chance to connect with the GW community—faculty members, staff members, students, alumni, neighbors, friends, and government officials—through the town hall meetings I chaired during the presidential search process. The results speak for themselves: President Steven Knapp has taken GW to new heights in scholarship, fundraising, research, and reputation. He was our clear choice and the right person for the job.

What’s at the top of your agenda as the new board chair? The Board of Trustees is responsible for our university’s governance. We also help set and ultimately approve the university’s strategy. In May we approved Vision 2021: A Strategic Plan for the Third Century of the George Washington University. The strategic plan is the road map for our priorities moving forward. The board met in mid-October to begin our efforts to implement the plan for the future. My role as chair is to lead the discussions and to help bring forward the best ideas. We are ultimately responsible for supporting our administration, faculty members, and staff members in the execution of our plan. In addition, our board will continue to nurture and enhance our distinction in academic achievement, research, and public service. We all feel the university is uniquely positioned to educate the next generation of leaders and to contribute to the advancement of knowledge as a comprehensive academic institution located in the heart of our nation’s capital.

In recent years, you and your wife have offered challenge matches for the Senior Class Gift campaign and established an engineering endowed scholarship. How do you decide where to put your support? The answer is simple: We are paying it forward. I attended GW on a full-tuition merit scholarship. Without that support, who knows where I would be today. My wife, Michele, and I firmly believe that creating opportunities for the next generation is the best way we can put our philanthropy to work.

We also believe that we need to inspire the next generation to give back what they can and when they can. The Senior Class Gift match helps our students develop the habit of giving while they are still here. Last spring the first student to receive our scholarship, Andrew Vasko, graduated from the School of Engineering and Applied Science. He asked us at the annual Power and Promise dinner what he could do to repay our generosity. The answer again was simple. I told him: “Someday, hopefully, you will be in a position to pay it forward.” He promised me when that day came, he would.

What do you think is the best part of being a GW alumnus? I couldn’t be more proud to be a GW alum. We are all part of a worldwide community, more than 250,000 strong, of remarkable people. Our alumni have made significant contributions in almost every facet of human endeavor. But my true pride comes out when I meet our current students. They are amazing and ambitious, selfless and bold, each one a testament to what the future can bring. Our alumni in the making inspire me to make GW the best it can be. As board chair, that will always guide my efforts.

— Caitlin Carroll
GW athletic teams used to be known as the Hatchetmen, Hatchetites, Axemen, Tongmen, and even the Crummen (a play on the name of former football coach and athletic director H.W. Crum). Writing that “dissatisfaction has been expressed for the past several years with the nicknames usually associated with the George Washington University’s athletic teams,” a 1926 editorial in The GW Hatchet suggested a new name: Colonials.

The editorial, published Oct. 27, 1926, under the title “A New Nickname,” stated: “What name could be more fitting? This, the school named after George Washington, and having as its colors the Continental Army Buff and Blue, the colors of Colonial America, should be entitled to bear the name of ‘Colonials’ if any school is so entitled.” In the same issue of the student newspaper, the athletic teams were referred to as the Colonials for the first time in a story about the football team.

After that call for the new nickname in the fall of 1926, mentions of the old nicknames dropped off considerably. There was a period of about one year between fall 1926 and spring 1928 when other nicknames were still used in print materials, but the Colonials had caught on as the top choice. After 1928, GW athletic teams were exclusively known as the Colonials. — Bergis Jules

For more bits of GW history, follow @GWUArchives on Twitter and visit go.gwu.edu/archives.
At the School of Nursing’s Skills and Simulation Laboratory—called the “sim lab” for short—students practice using real equipment, real scenarios, and almost real patients. “The Skills and Simulation Lab provides a realistic environment for students to learn and develop both psychomotor and critical thinking skills,” says Patty Davis, the lab’s director. The facility on GW’s Virginia Science and Technology Campus is one of the university’s state-of-the-art learning tools.

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GW NEWS

SHOWCASING NEW BOOKS BY GW PROFESSORS AND ALUMNI

BOOKSHELVES

When Victory Is Not an Option: Islamist Movements in Arab Politics
Nathan J. Brown

Some Islamist political movements in the Middle East have participated in elections in which the deck was so stacked against them that they had no chance of winning. And yet, as Nathan Brown observes in When Victory Is Not an Option, those movements may have benefited from playing the election games that were orchestrated by semiauthoritarian regimes.

By studying movements in Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, and Palestine, Dr. Brown teases out some of the advantages that Islamist movements gained under show elections, including unprecedented freedom of assembly and a platform to disseminate their messages to international audiences through the foreign press.

Casual students of current events may carry misconceptions about some of the organizations that Dr. Brown has studied, including the Muslim Brotherhood, which made strategic commitments a generation ago to emphasize political action. He says Islamist movements that are violent are the groups that tend to make front-page news—at least until the uprisings of 2011 in the Arab world.

“Domestically, in many Arab countries these movements never completely lived down their reputation for involvement in violent action, sometimes half a century ago,” he says of the political movements he writes about. “And authoritarian regimes had no interest in portraying their Islamist opposition as a political challenge rather than a security threat.”

Dr. Brown admits the challenges of tracking Arab Spring events and the quickly evolving region, and at one point in the book says, “In short, our findings about Islamist behavior under semiauthoritarian regimes might actually outlast those regimes.” Since he submitted the manuscript, there have been further changes.

“In 2013, I think the move by the new Egyptian regime to suppress the Brotherhood goes farther than anything it has seen for half a century,” he says. “I do not know how it will react, and since the top leadership is now mostly in jail, they may not yet have had the opportunity to decide.”

Playing Not to Win in the Middle East

In When Victory Is Not an Option: Islamist Movements in Arab Politics (Cornell University Press, 2012), Nathan J. Brown, a political science and international affairs professor, examines Islamist political movements in Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, and Palestine as they navigate free—yet unfair—elections and other complicated aspects of the political landscape. / By Menachem Wecker /
Early on in the book, Dr. Brown is clear that readers seeking immediate policy solutions will be disappointed. The book, which follows the scholarly approach to Islamist ideology as an effect—rather than a cause, as policymakers are wont to view it—follows what is often a cat-and-mouse game. One of the counterintuitive lessons of that sport that emerges in the book is that “working too hard to win an election is the best guarantee of losing it particularly badly.”

In the book’s preface, Ambassador Edward “Skip” Gnehm, BA ’66, MA ’68, Kuwait Professor of Gulf and Arabian Peninsula Affairs, is among the colleagues whom Dr. Brown thanks, and he adds that he has “some wonderful colleagues, especially at the Institute for Middle East Studies, which was established right about when I began writing.”

August 1895 portrait of Mark Twain with a trademark cigar at the fort to a more contemporary image of a helicopter parked beside the fort’s Rocky Mountain Museum of Military History in 2009. The art is compelling, and the research articulated in the text is also fascinating. The fort, after all, has seen a lot—from the arrival of so-called Buffalo Soldiers in the late 1880s to the presence of an auto mechanic school for the Army during World War I to the Italian nationals docked at the Alien Detention Center during the Roosevelt administration. Of course, the walls of the fort, which still houses part-time garrisons, can’t talk, but if they could, one assumes they would sound a whole lot like this book.

Cached: Decoding the Internet in Global Popular Culture (New York University Press, 2013)
Stephanie Ricker Schulte, MA ’02, PhD ’08
What is the Internet? That’s a tough question for Web surfers—casual or hooked—to answer, particularly given their simultaneous roles as spectators to and shapers of the Internet. “Comprised of so many competing dreams and investments, the Internet was, and continues to be, a major transforming component of life for much of the United States and, increasingly, the world,” writes Stephanie Ricker Schulte, an assistant professor of communication at the University of Arkansas, in Cached. Early on, Dr. Ricker Schulte, who holds a master’s in media and public affairs and a doctorate in American studies from GW, credits a single class of GW Associate Professor Melani McAlister’s with inspiring her to pursue a PhD. “She’s that good,” she writes. The book examines the cultural and political ways that the Web has shaped viewers, and perhaps more important, how users—including the news media and policymakers—have shaped the Internet.

Headhunters on My Doorstep (Gotham Books, 2013)
J. Maarten Troost, MA ’95
One of the best ways to describe the prose in Headhunters by J. Maarten Troost, who earned a master’s in international affairs from GW, might be to compare it with Dave Barry’s writings. Like Mr. Barry, Mr. Troost writes in a hilarious fashion about often sobering topics. “If something could go wrong, it usually did. The only law that seemed to apply to me was Mr. Murphy’s,” he writes early in the book. Among the factors responsible for his descent was alcoholism, which led Mr. Troost to decide—and here comes the deadpan humor—that the common denominator to his woes was continents. “Bad things happened to me on large land masses,” he writes. It might sound like a cop-out, but his subsequent decision to island-hop in the South Seas along the route that novelist Robert Louis Stevenson, of Treasure Island fame, had taken makes for some great tales.

Images of America: Fort Missoula (Arcadia Publishing, 2013)
Tate Jones, MA ’96
There are two ways to thumb through this pictorial history of Fort Missoula with more than 200 images by Tate Jones, who earned a master’s in history from GW. Just studying the photographs of the 19th-century Montana fort yields a fascinating prism through which to view the development of photography—from a stunning c. 1910 landscape of the fort’s approximate location and an

Stephanie Leigh Batiste, MPhil ’99, PhD ’08
Not only have some of the most desperate times and situations fostered the development of some of the greatest art, but art has also provided an escape for people to imagine better times. In the 1930s, African-American performers imagined happier lives for themselves than their status as second-class citizens in America during the Depression. “In instance after instance Depression-era black performance appropriates and manifests modern imperialist representation,” writes Stephanie Leigh Batiste in Darkening Mirrors. The period’s “virtual explosion of black film production and theatrical activity” provided “black Americans with an opportunity for creative negotiation of national identity and belonging.” The study also afforded Dr. Batiste, an associate professor of English and of black studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara, the chance to reimagine a childhood memory at an amusement park hall of reflections, which is where the metaphor of a darkening mirror comes from.
ATHLETICS NEWS
Swimming Alumnus Achieves High Honors

Recent George Washington men’s swimming alumnus and current graduate student Phillip Graeter, BS ’13, completed his intercollegiate athletics career as one of the university’s most decorated student-athletes of all time.

A 2012-13 Atlantic 10 Male Scholar-Athlete of the Year, Mr. Graeter became not only the first GW swimming student-athlete to earn the distinguished honor but also the first male swimmer in conference history to be selected for the award. From Schwerin, Germany, he is the fourth GW student-athlete to be named A-10 Scholar-Athlete of the Year.

“Phillip has been a wonderful representation of our team and what it means to be a student-athlete at GW,” says Head Coach Dan Rhinehart. “His dedication both in the pool and in the classroom is what makes him an outstanding person who is truly deserving. We couldn’t be more proud of him.”

A three-year standout for the Colonials, Mr. Graeter capped his career with a wealth of accolades. A two-time A-10 All-Academic Team selection, he was named to both the GW Athletics Academic Dean’s List and the A-10 Commissioner’s Honor Roll every semester at GW, and he graduated in May with a bachelor’s degree in systems engineering after garnering a perfect 4.0 grade point average in his final semester.

His accomplishments in the classroom were mirrored in the pool, as the three-time team MVP will go down as one of the top swimmers in GW history after securing 11 A-10 Championship medals during his career. As a team co-captain in 2012-13, he made three trips to the medal podium at the A-10 Championships and highlighted his final league championship appearance with a gold medal in the 400-yard individual medley.

At GW’s second annual Georgey Awards in May, Mr. Graeter earned the Male Athlete of the Year award, and prior to graduation, he was the recipient of the top senior male athletics award—the J. Dallas Shirley Most Outstanding Senior Male Student-Athlete.

He capped his standout career with one of the highest academic honors a student-athlete can achieve when he was named to the Capital One Academic All-America Division I Men’s At-Large Team. In doing so, Mr. Graeter became the first GW men’s swimmer to earn the distinguished honor, and the first Colonials student-athlete to be named to an Academic All-America team since women’s basketball’s Sarah-Jo Lawrence in 2008.
Softball Diamond to Olympic Ice

When Elana Meyers, BA ’06, became the George Washington University softball program’s first recruit in 2002, she dreamed of one day competing in the Olympics. Eight years later, she earned Olympic glory not in softball but in bobsledding.

Ms. Meyers won a bronze medal at the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver, becoming the first GW athletics alum to stand on an Olympic podium. Come Feb. 19, Ms. Meyers has every intention of climbing the podium again, this time at the 2014 Olympics in Sochi, Russia.

“Words cannot describe what it is like to stand on the podium,” she says. “It’s the culmination of a lifelong dream. In that moment, I could feel all the sacrifices of not only myself but everyone around me, and the great honor it was to represent them and the entire country. It was truly amazing.”

She says she does sometimes miss softball, which she calls her first love. “When I was offered the opportunity to play at a great school, I had to take advantage of it. Plus, it was an opportunity to start something and to leave a legacy.”

That legacy includes her standing as the program’s all-time leader in hits, batting average, on-base percentage, runs, and games played. Primarily a shortstop, Ms. Meyers also pitched as a freshman, and not only threw the first pitch and earned the first win in program history but also recorded the team’s first hit and scored its first run.

When her softball career at GW ended, however, the Olympic dream didn’t stop.

Calling to mind the combination of speed and strength that made her a standout on the diamond, her parents suggested a different path to the Olympics, one that took her from the diamond to the ice.

“Bobsled and softball are like children—I don’t love one more than the other, but I love them uniquely. Softball was my first love, but bobsled is awesome. My life has changed, and I think my sports interests have changed as well. I definitely wouldn’t be where I am if I hadn’t played softball at GW.”

While a student-athlete at GW, her coursework also prepared her for her Olympic pursuits.

“I studied exercise science at GW, so what I was able to learn—things like how the body moves and about proper nutrition—directly correlates to my training. I also got a master’s degree in sport management, and since bobsled is an amateur sport, we’re dealing with different things like sponsorships, stipend money, and appearance fees, so I’m handling contracts that if I didn’t have the education that I got at GW I’d be totally lost.”

In Sochi, Ms. Meyers will be competing in a different position in the sled for the first time on Olympic ice. Women’s bobsleds are crewed by two athletes—a brakeman and a pilot. In 2010 Ms. Meyer’s bronze came from her performance as a brakeman, but she has since moved to pilot and has rapidly become one of the country’s best.

“People always ask me how long I’ve been bobsledding, and I’ve been bobsledding for seven years, but I’ve been training for the Olympics my whole life because of softball.”

Former GW softball player Elana Meyers, BA ’06, is vying for a second Olympic medal in bobsled.
Men’s Basketball to Play 100th Season

This season marks the GW men’s basketball program’s 100th year of intercollegiate competition, but there could be plenty more reasons to celebrate with all five starters returning and the addition of a heralded transfer from Indiana University.

Under third-year Head Coach Mike Lonergan, the Colonials—labeled as a “dark horse” contender in the Atlantic 10 by Sports Illustrated—are primed to make a jump in the league. GW will be led by 6-foot-9 senior forward and A-10 All-Conference candidate Isaiah Armwood, who paced the team in scoring, rebounding, blocks, and dunks in 2012-13. Mr. Armwood averaged 11.9 points, while his 8.8 rebounds and 2.3 blocks per game were the most for any GW player since legend Yinka Dare in the early 1990s.

Mr. Armwood will be surrounded by a trio of sophomores who started nearly every game for the Colonials as freshmen in 2012-13—point guard Joe McDonald, wing Patricio Garino, and forward Kevin Larsen. Add returning sophomore starter Kethan Savage and letterwinners Nemanja Mikic, John Kopriva, Paris Maragkos, and Indiana-transfer Maurice Creek, and the Colonials have a battle-tested nucleus capable of competing with the best both in the conference and in the country.

Mr. Lonergan and staff also brought in important pieces from the recruiting trail, including Nick Griffin (a Washington Post All-Met performer from Rockville, Md.) and Miguel Cartagena (high school teammate of Mr. Garino at Montverde Academy in Florida), who will provide perimeter shooting and depth.

Mr. Lonergan has put together a schedule that features a number of marquee contests and GW alumni-friendly locales like New York City and southern California. The Colonials will visit last year’s Big XII champion Kansas State, Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference favorite Manhattan, and also face reigning Atlantic Coast Conference champion Miami (Fla.) as part of a stacked field at the 2013 Wooden Legacy in Orange County, Calif., during Thanksgiving weekend. At least 11 of GW’s games will be played on national television.

The most anticipated matchup of the 2013-14 season will come Dec. 8 at the Verizon Center in downtown Washington when GW takes on Maryland in the 19th annual BB&T Classic. GW received its first-ever victory against Maryland, handily defeating the Terrapins 41–19 in the 1906-07 season. The Colonials also knocked off the Terrapins in both the 2004 and 2005 BB&T Classics en route to back-to-back trips to the NCAA Tournament in 2005 and 2006.

Season tickets, as well as BB&T Classic tickets, are available by calling the GW Athletics Ticket Office at 202-994-7325, emailing GWpromos@gwu.edu, or visiting GWsports.com/tickets or the Charles E. Smith Center Ticket Office.
When Jonathan Tsipis was named head coach of the George Washington women’s basketball team in April 2012, he was tasked with re-establishing the Colonials as a national power and the most dominant team in the Atlantic 10 Conference.

In his first season at the helm, the former Notre Dame top assistant guided graduate students Danni Jackson, Megan Nipe, and Brooke Wilson, along with junior Chakecia Miller. Ms. Jackson and Ms. Nipe both started every game last season and averaged more than 10 points per game, while Ms. Miller has been one of the top defensive players in the A-10 since her arrival in Foggy Bottom. A strong presence in the post, Ms. Wilson will look to bounce back after missing most of last season with a knee injury.

Mr. Tsipis and his staff added three highly decorated freshmen for the 2013-14 season. Shannon Cranshaw was the 2013 Florida Player of the Year, while Hannah Schaible, another Florida native, led her high school team to three straight state titles and a pair of national championships. In addition, Caira Washington is a local product out of Georgetown Day School who earned a Washington Post All-Met honorable mention.

The Colonials will be an even bigger force to be reckoned with come mid-December, when transfers Jonquel Jones and Lauren Chase become eligible to take the court for the Buff and Blue. Six-foot-four Clemson transfer Ms. Jones was one of the top high school players in the region and the nation when she came out of nearby Riverdale Baptist a year ago, and she will immediately be a force down low. Ms. Jones’ high school teammate, Ms. Chase was the 2012 America East Rookie of the Year at UMBC and will join in the point guard position.

The Atlantic 10 has traditionally been one of the top conferences in Division I, and last season proved no different, as the league sent seven teams to the postseason in 2013. The Colonials will play seven games against those teams as part of a challenging 2013-14 slate, including matchups against A-10 champion Saint Joseph’s and regular-season champ Dayton.

A pair of games against GW’s neighbor and new A-10 member George Mason will be sure to ignite a so-called Revolutionary Rivalry, while the Colonials will also look for regional bragging rights with nonconference contests against a number of other local schools, including national powers Georgetown and Maryland, as well as American, Towson, Loyola, and Morgan State. But the highlight of the home schedule is sure to be an early-season tilt against 2013 Final Four participant California on Nov. 15.
GW Athletics Welcomes Back Diving and Track

The George Washington University will once again field varsity rosters for diving and track, which hasn’t existed at the university in more than eight decades.

While the reinstatement of diving comes not long after it was removed in 2009, varsity track has not been a GW sport since 1929. Three GW Athletic Hall of Famers are track student-athletes from that era—Robert Harmon, ’22; Hillory Tolson, ’21; and Stanley Tracy, ’21. Both sports are being reinstated to bolster GW’s sports offerings and recruiting, as the swimming and cross-country teams stand to benefit significantly from the university’s support.

“We are currently competing in the Atlantic 10 sport of swimming and diving but are doing so without a diving program,” says Head Swimming Coach Dan Rhinehart. “The reinstatement of diving will augment our positioning in the championships as we will no longer be forfeiting points in the diving events which factor into the championship standings.”

Five of seven men’s programs in the conference compete with a diving program, while seven of 11 women’s teams have diving.

The reinstatement of indoor and outdoor track to GW Athletics will increase the university’s varsity intercollegiate athletics teams to 27 in 2014-15.

“Runners want to run year-round,” says Head Cross Country Coach Terry Weir, who will assume additional responsibilities as head track coach. “By fielding an indoor and outdoor track team that will compete in the winter and spring seasons, not only are we giving our student-athletes additional opportunities for achievement, but we’re aiding our training and recruiting efforts in cross country by giving our student-athletes the ability to compete in Atlantic 10 and NCAA championships year-round.”

Both sports will begin their new seasons in 2014-15.
Unwinding the Origins of Throwing

Modern man may have perfected the fastball, but it was our ancestors nearly 2 million years ago who likely were the first to throw it, according to a recent study.

The ability to throw objects with speed and accuracy requires a constellation of anatomical features that evolved over time and first came together around 2 million years ago in the early human species Homo erectus, researchers reported in June in the journal Nature.

The timing, they write, coincides with archaeological evidence of early hunting activity.

The study is the first to trace the origins of powerful throwing and to propose a link to the dawn of hunting, a development that sparked a seismic shift in human history, says lead researcher Neil Roach, a postdoctoral scientist at GW’s Center for the Advanced Study of Hominid Paleobiology.

“Humans are amazingly good throwers,” Dr. Roach says. By comparison, the strong and athletic chimpanzee—one of man’s closest living relatives—throws at a speed about one-third that of a 12-year-old boy, he says. The difference, the researchers write, is in evolutionary changes to the shoulder, arm, and torso that enable human shoulders to gather and release energy like a slingshot.

To identify the mechanics involved, the research team—which included scientists from Harvard University, where Dr. Roach conducted the research as a doctoral student, and the National Centre for Biological Sciences, in India—analyzed the throwing motions of 20 males, most of whom were college baseball players.

Using a 3-D motion capture system, like those used to make video games and animated movies, the researchers recorded movements as participants threw baseballs at a target, then again while wearing a brace designed to limit their motion to mimic that of human ancestors.

“What we discovered was that during the throwing phase, in which the arm is pulled backwards, humans are storing elastic energy by stretching the ligaments, tendons, and muscles that are crossing the shoulder,” Dr. Roach says. Releasing that energy whirls the arm forward, generating a high-velocity throw.

That ability would have been vital to hunting, an important development that was beginning to intensify around the same time the anatomy for powerful throwing came together in Homo erectus, Dr. Roach says.

“Hunting really changed who we are and the way that we, as organisms, interact with the world,” he says. “The additional calories that meat and fat provided would have also allowed Homo erectus to grow larger bodies, bigger brains, and to have more babies—all of which helped make us who we are today.”

But exactly what these ancestors were throwing 2 million years ago remains a question, and an area where the team is turning their attention.

Pointed stone projectiles only date to around half a million years ago, Dr. Roach says, and before then the only weapons available would have been rocks and sharpened wooden spears. The team now plans to study how effective these early projectiles would have been for hunting.

—Danny Freedman
The Light Stuff: 1-Inch Thrusters for Small Satellites

Tiny thrusters built by GW researchers soon may be making their maiden voyage to space to propel pint-size satellites, following a successful round of tests this summer.

“Hopefully this will lead to the next level of funding that will end up with a flight,” says mechanical and aerospace engineering professor Michael Keidar.

The performance and control tests were conducted in August at NASA's Ames Research Center, in California.

The thrusters would be for a future generation of NASA's diminutive PhoneSats—four-inch cubes, weighing about two pounds, that each run on one, off-the-shelf Google smartphone. The project is aimed at testing the capacity for building spacecraft from powerful but inexpensive everyday components, which could be used to conduct space science at a fraction of the cost of full-size satellites.

—Danny Freedman

Students Help Design Smithsonian Exhibitions

Three new exhibitions at the Smithsonian’s National Air and Space Museum are giving flight to the ideas of a group of GW graduate students.

The 17 students from the Museum Studies Program’s Advanced Museum Exhibition Design course helped design the exhibition “High Art: A Decade of Collecting,” which features 50 pieces of art acquired by the museum during the past decade; “Suited for Space,” a series of images about the evolution of spacesuits; and “Searching for Goldilocks,” a glass sculpture depicting the first few dozen so-called Goldilocks planets—not too hot, not too cold, but just right for supporting life—found by NASA’s Kepler Observatory.

The exhibits opened in late July and will run through Dec. 1.

The course is taught by Barbara Brennan, a professorial lecturer who for two decades led the Air and Space Museum's exhibit design department before retiring last year. She approached the museum about a collaboration, and soon after the students were working closely with curators.

“It was a win-win for everyone,” Ms. Brennan says. “It was a wonderful experience for the students, and it helped the museum with its workload.”

The class was split into groups, with students working on the layouts of the exhibitions, the graphic panels and art labels, and the gallery entrance, outdoor signs, and banners.

“Most people have much more time—even years—for an exhibit. We had one semester,” says second-year graduate student Megan O’Connell. “Learning how much time each step takes and how to get all the information you need is a huge takeaway.” —Julyssa Lopez

The photograph “Apollo Intravehicular Glove,” by Albert Watson, is among the items on display in the exhibition “High Art.”
Insurance Savings for Colonials

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Hanging in the Balance

A recent U.S. policy shift toward greater involvement in the Asia-Pacific area has been embraced by many of the region’s nations, but its success hinges on an exceedingly delicate, regionwide balancing act, according to a new analysis.

“A happy ending is possible but not guaranteed,” researchers from the Elliott School of International Affairs conclude in the August report from GW’s Sigur Center for Asian Studies.

When President Obama took office, he initially followed the precedent of both the Clinton and Bush administrations in their approach to the region, says lead author Robert G. Sutter, a professor of practice in the Elliott School.

“The bottom line was: manage that relationship with China well, and you didn’t do things with neighbors that would be upsetting to China,” he says.

The fall of 2011, however, marked the start of a recalibration of U.S. engagement in the region—an evolving mix of military, economic, and diplomatic initiatives—that has caused friction with China, the regional power most suspicious of U.S. aims.

For other nations the shift serves as a counterbalance to an “increasingly assertive China,” the authors write, and offers reassurance that Washington—rather than being exhausted by wars in Iraq and Afghanistan—can be a source of stability and growth in the region.

Michael E. Brown, dean of the Elliott School and one of the report’s authors, says the policy pivot is part of a “grand strategy for the United States in geostrategic terms, which makes this an issue of considerable importance.”

The shift has drawn support in Congress and in the region, even if muted, as many nations walk a tightrope of maintaining good ties with both the United States and China. Critics view the policy as antagonizing China, unsustainable, or as something the president isn’t really committed to, Dr. Sutter says.

A summit in June between President Obama and Chinese President Xi Jinping appeared “successful in meeting its limited aims,” the authors write, but it is “much too early to tell if the summit represents a turning point in a relationship that has growing structural tensions.”

—Menachem Wecker

For brief descriptions of each of the awards, visit go.gwu.edu/eightawards.

MONTHLONG STRETCH NETS $13M IN GRANTS

In a single banner stretch this fall GW researchers were awarded more than $13 million in grant funding from federal agencies.

The eight awards announced between late August and late September, each more than $1 million, will fund research projects that range from studying autoworkers’ risk of developing renal disease and kidney cancer, to changes in the brain between the fetal and postnatal periods, to building a partnership with Lahore College Women’s University, in Pakistan, that will support collaborative education and research on gender and development issues.

GW Vice President for Research Leo Chalupa says he has not seen anything like that streak during his four years at the university.

“I think what it really shows, more than anything else, is the fact that we have faculty who are able to be competitive in a very, very challenging climate,” Dr. Chalupa says. “At a time when almost nine out of 10 applications get turned down, it is really remarkable.”

NEW TARGET AGAINST TB

Researchers have identified a potential new route for attacking tuberculosis that may hold promise against drug-resistant strains and even dormant TB infections.

In a recent study, led by chemistry professor Cynthia Dowd, researchers designed and tested molecules that work like a chemical Trojan horse, sneaking past the defenses of TB—causing bacterial cells and blocking functions essential for survival.

The team is now trying to determine exactly how the chemical works and how to sharpen its potency.

The study was published in July in the medicinal chemistry journal MedChemComm.

SAFETY-NET PATIENTS GET EQUAL CARE

A new study finds no evidence that primary care physicians provide substandard care to Medicaid patients, the uninsured, and others who rely on the nation’s safety-net system.
FROM THE NEVEST TWIGS TO THE ANCIENT LIMBS OF THE “TREE OF LIFE,” RESEARCHERS TRACE THE CONNECTIONS BETWEEN ALL LIVING THINGS.

/ BY DANNY FREEDMAN /

‘ENDLESS FORMS MOST BEAUTIFUL AND MOST WONDERFUL’
Between all living things, past and present. In turn, that knowledge has nourished other sciences from medicine and agriculture to engineering and climate studies.

“If you’re interested in nature and you want to know about the fundamental questions,” says GW biologist Guillermo Ortí, “then this is your road map to understand it.”

More than 150 years of work has produced vast catalogues of the planet’s biodiversity, limb by limb. At GW, where sketching the tree is the main focus of about one-third of the biology faculty and a core group from anthropology, the research spans the evolution of things big and small, from dinosaurs to single-celled organisms, plants to people.

GW biologists have led or co-led some of the many arms of a high-profile National Science Foundation project to map large branches, among a variety of other investigations. And even as they continue to fine-tune the resolution in sections of the tree, others among them are part of an ambitious plan to piece together the whole thing: a behemoth of some 2 million leaves representing every known animal, plant, fungus, and microbe species.

It won’t be the cultural cold shower that was Mr. Darwin’s theory. It will be, the researchers say, akin to the first glimpse of Earth from space: a chance to see all at once the fragile sum of existence, a fountainhead of new questions and, perhaps, some answers.

“A HUNDRED YEARS of received wisdom and hundreds of papers and articles.” That’s been the result, Alex Pyron says, of conventional knowledge on the oldest ancestor of lizards and snakes. That’s what he’s about to disrupt.

In research published online this summer, the GW biologist and a colleague suggest that the oldest ancestor of lizards and snakes probably gave birth to live young, rather than laying eggs.

That wouldn’t be unheard of—around 20 percent of living lizards and snakes operate that way, Dr. Pyron says—but it reframes the way we look at their world.

“It’s a pretty major overturn of an accepted school of thought,” he says. The study required a framework for slogging through 170 million years of evolution, accounting for as many subgroups as possible. And Dr. Pyron had just the thing.

This year he and two colleagues published an evolutionary tree of lizards and snakes—
together, known as squamates—that covers 25 times the number of species as the next-largest genetic analysis of squamates.

Two years ago he did much the same for amphibians. And it’s not an unfamiliar accomplishment around Bell Hall.

Last year researchers published the largest tree for the group of spiders called orb weavers, which make up a third of all spiders, tracing them back to a common ancestor that lived 230 million years ago.

This year GW researchers published the largest evolutionary study of “bony fish,” a group that makes up the majority of the world’s fish, and likewise for anomurans, a class of crustaceans that includes hermit crabs and king crabs.

They have published a comparative study of muscle evolution in primates, the first to be based on anatomical evidence, and reported two new species that help fill in the fossil record: a 161 million-year-old dinosaur of the same ilk as *Tyrannosaurus rex*, and the closest relative to the group that gave rise, eventually, to modern crocodiles and alligators. The coming months also promise the largest evolutionary timeline for plants.

For two decades the university has been cultivating an expertise in systematics, or the classification of living things, and evolutionary history, nature’s relentless tinkering that results in “endless forms most beautiful and most wonderful,” as Mr. Darwin put it.

“This is one of the more revolutionary ideas in science in the last 200 years, that pond scum to killer whales can all be put into this big Tree of Life,” says Diana Lipscomb, chair of the biological sciences department.

Dr. Lipscomb, who studies single-celled organisms, was the only systematist at the university when she arrived in the early 1980s, amidst what she describes as a decades-long lull for the field. “People didn’t really understand how central this all was.”

Now there’s little mistaking it. In medicine and public health, evolutionary trees are used to identify diseases, such as the SARS outbreak in 2003, to help determine which flu strain to vaccinate against, to find ways to attack antibiotic-resistant bugs, and to prospect drugs from plants and animals. Venoms, for instance, are studied for their potential to treat conditions like heart attack, stroke, pain, and cancer. And trees can predict wider uses of antivenoms by pointing to animals that may be close cousins, despite looking like perfect strangers.

In agriculture, evolutionary trees are used to bolster crops and combat invasive species. They help engineers understand natural marvels, like adhesives that let geckos walk upside down on glass and the aerodynamic design of fins and wings.

“It’s like man has a warehouse of things and we don’t know 90 percent of what’s in the warehouse,” says Dr. Lipscomb. “How dumb is that?”

The systematics program at GW began to bud in the early 1990s. It was a practical leap, she says, based on the strength of what was already a century of collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution and GW’s biology department and the limitations of its home, Bell Hall, which dates to 1935.

Graduate students already were taught by GW professors and Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History curators. Then in 1993 the program received a crucial boost when Professor Emeritus of Botany and three-time alumnus Robert Weintraub and his wife, Frances, set up an endowment that has grown to fund five professorships. (The systematics program is now named for Dr. Weintraub—as are a handful of new species.)

Around the same time, Dr. Lipscomb had been part of a small group of scientists lobbying to shift attention back to evolutionary studies. The effort helped spur the National Science Foundation’s

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**Amy Zanne**  
Assistant Professor of Biology  
FOCUS: Plants  
SPECIALTY: Vascular plants, those adapted for life on land with specialized cells to move water, which include flowering plants.

**Bernard Wood**  
University Professor of Human Origins,  
Department of Anthropology  
FOCUS: Primates  
SPECIALTY: Hominins, the lineage that led to our own species, *Homo sapiens*
Assembling the Tree of Life program, which launched in 2002 with Dr. Lipscomb serving a two-year stint at NSF as one of the program’s administrators.

Geared toward large-scale, multi-institutional projects, the program started with a $17 million bang. It funded a handful of studies, including one on the connection between birds and their dinosaur relatives, led by GW paleontologist James Clark, and another on the evolutionary track of spiders, co-led by GW biologist Gustavo Hormiga.

Since then the NSF’s program has invested millions more into dozens of tree studies, including two other GW-led trees: one for “bony fish,” the group that comprises most of the world’s fish, and another for decapod crustaceans, which includes crabs, shrimp, crayfish, and lobsters.

Beyond those projects, the biology department continued to leverage its Smithsonian bond and endowed professorships to attract faculty members who have put the department on the map. They’ve forged collaborative relationships with New York’s American Museum of Natural History, among other institutions, and established track records for winning funding for evolutionary studies year after year—in some cases now for two decades.

“For much of the history of evolutionary trees, and very much still today, connections have been made by comparing the physical characteristics of organisms. Over the past 50 years or so, genetic analysis has offered a deepening data gold mine for studying younger life-forms—those dating back perhaps several hundred thousand years, if their DNA has been preserved.

At its most basic level, DNA from two species is combed for differences; the more differences they have, the farther apart they are from each other on the Tree of Life. Genetic differences can also help scientists estimate how long ago changes occurred.

The steady sprint of advances in sequencing technology and computing muscle have made possible massive studies that analyze thousands of genes—even whole genomes—or other biological markers across thousands of species.

These studies corroborate much of what had been surmised based on anatomy and fossils, but they also offer surprising insights.

Genetic analyses for the recent GW-led “bony fish” evolutionary tree turned up this tidbit: Although the warm-blooded tunas, mackerels, swordfish, and billfish, like the marlin, had been lumped together based on physical characteristics, researchers found that tunas and mackerels actually are more closely related to seahorses, and billfish and swordfish are closer to the Picasso-esque flatfishes, like flounder.

“They don’t resemble each other at all,” says GW postdoctoral researcher Ricardo Betancur, “but according to DNA, they are more closely related.” Given that finding, it now appears that warm-bloodedness evolved independently at least twice among fish.

But DNA is also pointing to physical similarities that simply had gone unnoticed. Spider expert Gustavo Hormiga recently

“This is one of the more revolutionary ideas in science in the last 200 years, that pond scum to killer whales can all be put into this big tree of life.”

— Diana Lipscomb, Chair of GW’s Biological Sciences Department
was studying an obscure group that was
known to belong to the sprawling lineage of
orb-weaving spiders, but scientists had
“absolutely no clue” where they fit in, he says.

A genetic analysis suggested the closest
relative, and once Dr. Hormiga got them side
by side, the mystery became a head-slapper.
“This makes a lot of sense,” he says, “but
nobody actually had that vision.”

Despite the tidal wave of new genetic
and anatomical data, resulting in thousands
of new trees being published each year in
scientific journals, the notion of a singular
Tree of Life has remained simply a metaphor.

That could change beginning this fall. A
research team is anticipating the release a
so-called first draft of the Tree of Life. The
immense architecture, built by grafting
together existing data, will include a spot for
each of the roughly 2 million known species
across more than 3 billion years of life.

“It will be a fundamentally different way
to do systematics,” says Keith Crandall,
director of GW’s Computational Biology
Institute, who is one of the project’s 11 leaders
from 10 institutions.

The nearly $6 million project, called the
Open Tree of Life, is one part of a three-
pronged, $13 million initiative launched last
year by the NSF that aims to produce an
open-source tree and the analytical tools
needed to explore it.

The task, Dr. Crandall says, is possible
now because of advances in computing power
and the recent work to bring the branches
into better focus. The framework will include
classification details for each species and,
where available, evolutionary connections.

The researchers ultimately envision a
tree that updates automatically as new data
become available. But they’re finding that
the trees and genetic data found in studies
overwhelmingly are not reusable, bound in
formats like PDFs that can’t be meshed with
other data sets. Resolving that will require a
shift in the field toward seeing the branching
diagrams assembled for studies “as data, and
not as a result,” Dr. Crandall says.

The Open Tree of Life, however, also
will bloom through crowdsourcing. The
team is relying on scientists to upload their
data, enticed by analytical tools capable of
searching across the big picture and mining
it for new perspectives and opportunities.

Researchers will be able to see across life and
through time at the emergence of specialized
characteristics, booms and lulls in species
formation, and how species historically have
responded to climate change.

But, Dr. Crandall says, one of the most
significant things the Tree of Life will show is
precisely what isn’t known; the pinholes and
chasms in the collective knowledge.

And there are plenty—even in the number
of species that are formally known to science.

It’s “somewhere between 1.8 million and
2.2 million, depending on who you talk to,”
Dr. Crandall says. “That’s part of the irony:
Not only do we not know how many species
are on Earth, we don’t even have a reasonable
handle on how many we’ve described.”

And saying a species is known or
described is relative: Diana Lipscomb, the
biology chair, who researchers singled-celled
organisms, says she deals with “big chunks of
tree” in which living species are called simply
“Undescribed from the Atlantic Ocean,” or
“Undescribed from the Great Lakes.”

Genes have been sequenced, she says,
“but nobody knows what any of those things
look like, what they’re eating, how they’re
functioning.”

How much else is out there that may have
no name at all? Guesses range from another
million species to a hundred million.

The unknown weighs on Dr. Hormiga, the
spider researcher, while collecting in remote
locales, like a recent trip to an island 400
miles off the coast of Chile.

“Think of actually running through a
library that’s on fire,” he says. “You’re going
to try to pull out as many books as possible
before you get out of the building.”

“The reality is that a lot of these places are
going fast,” he says. “The extinction rates are
episodic. So it’s not unthinkable that many of
the places where I’ve collected will be gone,
and the only evidence those species ever
existed is what was deposited in a museum.”

The trips, he says, are exhausting.
“Because you know well there’s not much
time to sleep.”

Keith Crandall
Director of the Computational Biology
Institute and Professor of Biology
FOCUS: Crustaceans
SPECIALTY: Freshwater crayfish, lobster-like
crustaceans that across some 600 species
vary widely in color and size, ranging from
under an inch long to more than 15 inches

Gustavo Hormiga
Ruth Weintraub Professor of Biology
FOCUS: Spiders
SPECIALTY: Orb weavers, the spiders known
originally for their classic wheel-and-spoke-
shape webs, though it’s now known that
their web-building can take many forms,
and some don’t produce webs at all
Military student enrollment at GW has grown 300 percent in the past four years.
WITH ENROLLMENT ON THE RISE, GW STEPS UP SUPPORT FOR MILITARY AND VETERAN STUDENTS WITH GW VALOR.

/ BY MARY A. DEMPSEY /

Like many students in the World Executive MBA program at the School of Business, Joe Foley felt he needed a graduate degree to move up the ladder at work. He was drawn to the program’s flexible schedule—designed for working professionals—and its focus on international business. The university’s D.C. location was a plus.

“I believe that 60 percent of what you get from an MBA program comes from the people in your classes, your peers,” says Mr. Foley, MBA ’12. “I’m in my late 40s, and I wanted people with equivalent work experience in my class. I looked at other executive education programs in town. I picked GW because of the caliber of students...
I’d be with.”

He was among peers—except for one thing. His employer. Mr. Foley is a lieutenant commander in the U.S. Coast Guard, chief of its Reserve Policy and Plans Division.

When he earned his MBA last year, he was one of the estimated 1,000 military students—active, reserve, and guard military members, as well as veterans and their families—taking classes at GW. Some followed military-only academic programs in clinical health sciences. Others, making the transition to civilian life, leveraged their overseas experiences in courses on international development or public policy. Still others, like Mr. Foley, pursued advanced education.

GW enrollment of military students has grown 300 percent in the past four years. As part of a strategy to help it grow even more, the university in late May—on Armed Forces Day—launched GW Veterans Accelerate Learning Opportunities and Rewards program, or GW VALOR. The effort encompasses 26 initiatives that align with GW’s new strategic plan. GW VALOR’s goals are to accelerate learning through innovative programs, ensure top student services and career services, and to become the university of choice for military members, veterans, and their families. Military and veteran students currently make up about 4 percent of GW enrollment.

“We’ve been identified as a military-friendly university. In light of our successes, we collectively felt we could take it to the next level. Operation GW VALOR is a comprehensive, collaborative, and unified effort,” says Vice Adm. (Ret.) Mel Williams Jr., the university’s new associate provost for military and veterans affairs. In support of GW’s new strategic plan (see story page 46), which calls for innovation through cross-disciplinary collaboration, Vice Adm. Williams and his team are working to better model the way in unifying activities across the entire university regarding military and veterans affairs.

Veterans, active-duty students, and retired military members are part of a legacy that dates to even before 1944 when, a year after serving in the U.S. Army, Don Balfour famously became the first GI Bill recipient in the U.S. He used it to complete a bachelor’s degree at GW. The university was also home to the first veteran group on a university campus, the GW Vets of WWII.

In the years that followed, a number of notable military leaders studied at GW. Gen. Colin Powell, who served as secretary of state under President George W. Bush, earned an MBA in 1971. Another retired general and former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, John Vessey Jr., graduated in 1965 with an MBA. U.S. Rep. Tammy Duckworth, a veteran of the war in Iraq, graduated with a master’s degree from the Elliott School of International Affairs in 1992, and Maj. Gen. Nadja West, the U.S. Army Medical Command’s first two-star general who is African-American, earned a doctorate of medicine from the GW School of Medicine in 1988. Current faculty member Adm. Thad Allen, MPA ’86, served as the 23rd commandant of the Coast Guard.

Vice Adm. Williams also likes to point out that the university’s namesake, George Washington, was a military man—a general and the country’s first commander in chief.

GW VALOR IS THE UMBRELLA for a universitywide effort marked by innovative learning opportunities, from flexibility in classroom schedules, to career placement for veterans, to a special relationship with the U.S.S. George Washington, the aircraft carrier based in Japan.

The effort includes an expansion of the university’s presence at the Hampton Roads Center, near the nation’s largest concentration of military installations, bases, and suppliers, as well as veterans and their families. It also spotlights programs such as the School of Nursing’s BA for independent duty corpsman and medics interested in moving to civilian nursing careers, the certificate program for deployed and post-active duty military service members, and veterans interested in political office or public service and degrees in police and security studies at the College of Professional Studies.

Under the effort, new online programs will join more than 40 existing graduate online degree programs. “As part of GW VALOR, we have the first interdisciplinary online undergraduate degree program for military members, veterans, and their families,” says the vice admiral, a nuclear submariner who retired from the military and served at the U.S. Department of Energy as the associate deputy secretary before joining GW.

Career services are another pivotal part of the new services. “We want to connect our students with industries so they have a pathway to employment as they leave the military. We think this is what makes us different from other universities,” says Vice Adm. Williams. He says students will be linked to potential employers through networking events and internships and will also have access to short courses on résumé writing and interview techniques.

Since World War II, government student aid has been a catalyst for veterans to enroll.
in school. Historically, students tended to tap the GI Bill to pursue four-year degrees at state colleges and universities or certificate programs at for-profit academic institutions. GW was one of the first universities to sign on to the Yellow Ribbon program, a component of the GI Bill under which the Department of Veterans Affairs and universities in the program share the educational expenses that exceed the bill’s provisions. In partnership with the Yellow Ribbon Program, GW tuition has been covered fully for undergraduate student veterans since 2009. Thanks to increases in government assistance, almost all graduate student veterans are also now able to earn a degree tuition-free. GW recently doubled its financial commitment to Yellow Ribbon graduate students in 2013-14. And through the generosity of alumni, the university has also added new scholarships aimed at military students.

Andrew Sonn, assistant vice president for the Division of Student Affairs, played a pivotal role in developing GW’s approach to Yellow Ribbon.

“The package we created for veterans was among the best being offered by research universities in this country,” says Dr. Sonn, who has worked at GW for 15 years. “It helped us build a great reputation among military students. And now we’ll have GW VALOR to address all the stages of the student life cycle—prospective, enrollment, orientation, campus and academic life, and alumni standing.”

With the war in Iraq over and a drawdown under way in Afghanistan, thousands of new veterans who had to forgo or interrupt their college educations may head to the classroom. In tandem, active-duty military members are expected to continue a trend of recent years: enrolling in online courses in large numbers. Online courses work well for active-duty military members who may not know when or where they will be deployed. Service members stationed overseas point to online degrees as a productive way to use their free time.

GW RECOGNIZES THAT VETERANS’ TRANSITION to civilian life will have important social and economic ramifications for the country.

“Many military students have deferred their education to serve our great nation. We feel it is important to shape learning programs and provide the career services necessary as rewards for that service,” Vice Adm. Williams says. Beyond programming and services, he adds, there is another link between the military and GW: shared values. According to the vice admiral, both embrace service-oriented cultures that emphasize teamwork, diversity, respect, and excellence.

In 2013, for the fourth year in a row, G.I. Jobs Magazine categorized the George Washington University as a “military friendly” school. Military Times put the university on its “best for vets” list of colleges.

GW also wants to build enrollment numbers for military students because they broaden the dialogue in classrooms and the diversity on campus.

“I think we benefit tremendously from the veterans on our campus because it gives the opportunity for students coming fresh out of high school to encounter fellow students who have a much different set of experiences,” GW President Steven Knapp said at an American Council on Education panel on military students that he moderated in March, one of many forums where he has discussed GW’s leadership in helping student veterans successfully transition to campus life. “Also, our student-veterans have been great leaders of the efforts of our students in community service because they see themselves as continuing the mission to serve while they’re back here at our colleges and universities.”

The experiences of military students were also highlighted when second lady Jill Biden visited campus in April to kick off a listening tour on veterans issues. Senior Mitch Bent, who served two tours in Iraq and is president of the student group GW Veterans, said at the event that training faculty and staff helps them better tap military students experiences in the classroom, allowing those students to “continue to mentor the future leaders who are coming out of GW.”

Mr. Foley says his Coast Guard experience complemented the private-sector perspectives of other students in his World Executive MBA classes.

“I have an aviation background, so I’m very checklist oriented. I like to have systems and process maps to managing projects,” he says. “I got to see how that works out in a cohort team environment.”

Mr. Foley says he also brought a more purposeful approach to decision making.

“When you have people who work for you, they’re looking for direction. They’re giving you information so you can make decisions,” he says. “As military folks, we’re OK making decisions. We don’t get paralyzed. We have risk-based jobs, and we know that if we make a bad decision we’re going to learn from it—and then we’ll move on to the next decision.”

On the flip side of the equation, he says the nonmilitary students broadened his perspective, notably around technology.

“In the government, we hesitate about embracing new technology. There are so many layers and approval pieces and screens...
Battle Stories

During the summer, 35 veterans from across the country came together on the Mount Vernon Campus for an intensive week of writing and filmmaking. Several were in their 20s, others in their 60s. They had served in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Vietnam, and some carried visible reminders of those deployments.

The Veterans Writing and Filmmaking Summer Seminar, presented by the University Writing Program, brought them together to express their war experiences. "This is something that is important for us," says UWP executive director Derek Malone-France, who added that the program is planning to offer a for-credit course on writing about war this spring. "We're looking at a workshop for veteran students and another workshop for other students, maybe also offering a version open to both."

In the summer, however, he says few GW students are in the market for a noncredit seminar. That opened the way for UWP to organize the all-expenses-paid workshop for veterans.

"Who can use this kind of opportunity in the summer are veterans out there who are not associated with colleges or universities. We view this summer seminar as a public service for them," Dr. Malone-France says.

Retired Lt. Col. Ron Capps, who served in Rwanda, Kosovo, Afghanistan, Iraq, and Darfur, leads the seminar. Mr. Capps' experiences prompted him to create the Veterans Writing Project, a national initiative that works with veterans, service members, and family members who want to share their stories. The project's aim is to facilitate the writing process and provide a healing experience for participants.

The veterans who assembled in June spent 10 to 12 hours a day telling their stories in fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and plays, before dropping into bed in the residence halls. Their instructors, many of them veterans themselves, included the poet laureate of North Carolina, Joseph Bathanti.

Independent filmmakers led by Benjamin Patton, who has made documentaries about veterans' experiences with post-traumatic stress disorder, guided the filmmaking participants. The students in the filmmaking sequence of the seminar produced movies of up to 10 minutes. "Some films had to do with the coming together of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans with Vietnam veterans," says Dr. Malone-France, who characterized the seminar as "valuable for the entire university community—and the public."

"It's tremendously important at a school like GW, where we have so many students who have come here with the aim of making a difference in the world and being involved in the political process. We put out a disproportionate number of graduates who become members of Congress," Dr. Malone-France says. "But the vast majority of our students, just like the vast majority of the rest of the country, have no direct experience with deployment."

In the spring, Mr. Capps will teach GW's for-credit course on writing about war. A gift from alumna Joanne Holbrook Patton made it possible for the UWP to offer the course.

Mrs. Patton is a 1948 graduate of the Mount Vernon Seminary, which merged with GW in 1999. She is the widow of Maj. Gen. George S. Patton Jr. (the son of the World War II commander) and the mother of filmmaker Benjamin Patton.
to understand veterans’ lives, goals, and expectations on campus. The first pilot workshop for 40 people took place in August. A second training session for about 50 people—including faculty—was in late September.

“We talk about the transition from the military. We talk about what it’s like to study with a younger generation of student,” Mr. Ruybal says. “We let student veterans tell their stories.”

He says GW has become both a model for other universities and a target for collaboration—both across the university and with outside groups. Those collaborations include Peer Advisors for Veteran Education, a grant-funded program that pairs military students already on campus with incoming military students to help the newcomers navigate the university. The University of Michigan, which runs the program, selected GW to participate.

Paul Tschudi, a professor in the School of Medicine and Health Sciences and co-director of GW’s certificate program in grief, loss, and life transition, is working with Mr. Ruybal on PAVE. Professor Tschudi was a medic during the Vietnam War.

“I’ve been at GW for 17 years,” he says. “About three years ago I was asked to help establish a veteran service office on campus, and things sort of built from that.”

He now serves as a faculty adviser for student veterans groups and has co-taught a course, “Life Beyond War,” in the counseling department at the Graduate School of Education and Human Development. Of the 16 students in the class, half were veterans and half were graduate counseling students with an interest in working with veterans and their families.

He also teaches a four-day Summer Institute graduate course in counseling that includes sections on veterans’ issues. During three of the days of the course, the students in nursing, public health, and counseling are joined by clergy, nurses, doctors, social workers, and other professionals in the community who work on issues of life transition, grief, and loss.

“This is just one example of how broad the university’s perspective is. Not only is this campus doing things directly with and for veterans, but we are also helping to educate service providers,” Professor Tschudi says.

He cautions that whatever programs GW sets up, it must make them flexible because the military students of tomorrow will be different from those on campus today.

“Many of the student veterans on campus have been deployed in war zones. They have a special level of camaraderie,” he says. “The issues facing future students will be different in many ways.”

“WE TALK ABOUT THE TRANSITION FROM THE MILITARY. WE TALK ABOUT WHAT IT’S LIKE TO STUDY WITH A YOUNGER GENERATION OF STUDENT. WE LET STUDENT VETERANS TELL THEIR STORIES.”

— MIKE RUYBAL, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF MILITARY AND VETERAN STUDENT SERVICES

Learn more about the GW VALOR initiative by visiting military.gwu.edu.

U.S. Rep. Tammy Duckworth, MA ’92, is a veteran of the war in Iraq and has returned to campus to speak many times, including this event, “Welcome Home to Washington: Fostering Higher Education Success for Veterans and their Families,” in 2009.
HEALTH POLICY FACULTY MEMBERS DESCRIBE 10 ASPECTS OF THE LAW THEY HELPED SHAPE.

1. It guarantees access to health insurance without pre-existing condition exclusions or higher prices based on health status.

SARA ROSENBAUM: This is probably the best known of the reforms. The law fundamentally changes the old rules that governed the health insurance market. In a voluntary market, health insurers would weed out bad risks because of the danger that people would seek coverage only when they needed it for health problems. But insurers, especially those selling plans in the individual market (that is, not through an employer), carried protection against what is known as “adverse selection” to extreme degrees. Insurers would shut people out entirely simply because they had a condition, or else would offer coverage only at extremely high prices. Even if people could afford coverage, they would find that pre-existing conditions were excluded. A famous example is that insurers would exclude treatment for HIV or AIDS or AIDS-related conditions, which would exclude virtually all coverage because of the extensive consequences of AIDS. Because it was a voluntary insurance market, the insurance industry took the position that harsh exclusions and pricing discrimination were what they had to do to survive financially.

Under the new system, everyone will be able to qualify for coverage because everyone will be expected to have insurance. The personal responsibility requirement, as it is known, means that people will enroll as a matter of course and not simply when they need health care. This allows the government to guarantee that everyone can obtain coverage regardless of health status. Insurers’ ability to exclude treatments and conditions from coverage, or to impose long waiting periods, will cease. This basic reform in the insurance market will be in place in every state in the country.

2. It covers preventive services, including all recommended vaccines and screenings for things like breast and colon cancer.

SUSAN WOOD: Historically, preventive services have not been covered by insurance plans. It’s been a treatment model. What has been changing over the last decade is a focus on prevention with the concept that prevention may save money or that it will promote good health and lengthen life.

LEIGHTON KU: This is a change that is occurring in all states in almost every form of insurance, particularly private insurance and Medicare. The preventive services that have been demonstrated to be effective will be fully covered by insurance, and there won’t be any cost sharing. This is important because it’s very clear that when people have to pay for a preventive service like getting a mammogram, people think, “I’m not sick..."
Meet the Experts:

**SARA ROSENBAUM** is the Harold and Jane Hirsh Professor of Health Law and Policy and founding chair of the Department of Health Policy. She has served six presidential administrations and 15 Congresses since 1977. Professor Rosenbaum is best known for her work on the expansion of Medicaid, the expansion of community health centers, patients’ rights in managed care, civil rights and health care, and national health reform.

**LEIGHTON KU** is a health policy professor and director of the Center for Health Policy Research at GW. He is an expert on health insurance and access to care who has conducted research for think tanks such as the Urban Institute and Center on Budget and Policy Priorities and advised Congress, federal agencies, state governments, and community organizations across the country. He is on the board of the new D.C. Health Insurance Marketplace instituted as part of the Affordable Care Act.

**SUSAN WOOD** is a health policy professor and executive director of the Jacobs Institute of Women’s Health at GW. She previously served at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, where she was assistant commissioner for women’s health and director of the Office of Women’s Health.
right now, do I really want to shell out this money to see the doctor for this service?” Some of the key preventive services that are now covered include screening for breast, colon, and cervical cancer, immunizations for a number of diseases, as well as tobacco cessation services. Those who have insurance will be able to get these services without worrying about the costs. The preventive care should help people stay healthy, or in the case of cancer screenings, get earlier diagnosis and treatment before the cancer becomes more severe.

SR: Word to the wise: Be very careful when you look at your new health insurance claims. If you get a colonoscopy, for instance, you should not be charged for anesthesia. That should be covered because it is part of the preventive service. Some screening exams like a colonoscopy require that you be anesthetized, so it’s not just the screening exam, it’s the incidental parts of the treatment that go along with it. Another interesting issue is that for women who are having breast cancer screenings, the genetic testing part of the screening is now covered.

LK: A tricky issue for some of the cancer screenings is to understand “preventive screenings” versus “diagnostic screenings.” For instance, if you are a woman who has had breast cancer, you should continue to get screened to monitor for a reoccurrence. But at that point, it is considered a diagnostic screening, as opposed to a preventive screening, and the insurance company may require a co-payment.

SR: People think that preventive services are inexpensive, but they aren’t necessarily. Shingles vaccines—recommended for people over 60—are a couple hundred. Colonoscopies can be thousands. So, this is a substantial benefit.

3 FDA-approved contraceptives and other care for women are now covered.

SW: During the development of the ACA it was a high priority of the public health world and the women’s health community to get coverage for women’s health services. The law directed Health and Human Services to develop a list of things that were missing from the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force [an expert panel that evaluates and recommends procedures] list but were important services for women. It was determined that a Well-Woman Visit at least once a year will be covered without co-pay or deductible, and the full range of FDA-approved products will be covered. Last August any new nongrandfathered plan would need to cover contraception. Women should now be looking for a $0 co-pay on contraception.

Both the Catholic Church and individuals have objected to insurance coverage of contraception being treated as a required covered item. They argue that it’s a matter of religious freedom. How has the administration handled this? They created from the very beginning an exemption for houses of worship. In its first round of rulemaking on this, the administration carved out an exception for this.

SR: That is really important. Even though the law says that you can’t be denied health insurance coverage because of your health status, in order to keep the market functioning properly, you can’t wait around until you are sick to get insurance. A lot of people say: “Isn’t that going to be horribly confusing?” The answer is: At least there will be lots of choices for people. People usually say they want lots of choices. And this is just in D.C. Other states will have their own marketplaces with different insurance carriers and plans. Some states, like D.C. or Maryland, are setting up and operating their own systems, while other states, such as Virginia, have not wanted to set up their own marketplaces and are relying on the federal government to set them up and administer them.

LK: New marketplaces—websites that offer a variety of health plans—began in every state in October 2013. The websites help people determine if they are eligible for financial help, make a choice about the insurance plan they want, and arrange for payment. They are going to offer competitive private health insurance plans, and information about the plans will be standardized so that it will be easier to compare across plans. The federal website Healthcare.gov connects to the websites for every state’s marketplace.

The new marketplaces are aimed at two audiences. The first is people trying to purchase health insurance individually—this is particularly relevant for people who otherwise can’t get health insurance because they don’t have Medicare or Medicaid and are not offered health insurance or affordable health insurance at their jobs. If they have incomes between 100 and 400 percent of the poverty level, there will be tax credits available to help underwrite the monthly costs of their health insurance premiums. (For 2013, the poverty level is $11,490 for a single adult and $23,550 for a family of four.) Those who have incomes below 250 percent of the poverty level can also get assistance to make care more affordable by lowering co-payments and deductibles.

Small businesses can also get insurance for their employees in these exchanges, and they too will have a wide variety of plans. For example, in D.C. we will have four insurance carriers participating. Across them they will be offering about 300 different plans. Some carriers even dream up 300 different plans? Are these for individuals and groups?

LK: Yes. Individuals have a somewhat smaller number of plans to choose from. Small businesses will have a larger range of choices, as they did even before the reform. One of the reasons there are so many plans is that there will be five price levels, each of which counts as a separate plan. The four main price levels are called metal levels—platinum, gold, silver, and bronze—and there are catastrophic plans too. They differ in how much of the total health care cost the plan will cover as opposed to what the individual will cover. With platinum, the insurer covers 90 percent of medical costs, but the consumer will only have to cover about 10 percent out of their own pocket. But this also means the monthly insurance premium will be higher. When you go down to the bronze plan, insurance covers only 60 percent of the cost, the consumer will be responsible for 40 percent, and, as a result, the monthly premiums will be lower.

SR: If you are getting premium credits, the credit that people will qualify for is designed to keep your premium costs at no more than a set percentage of your income. So it’s like getting a discount.

LK: Of course people will need help with the online system, so there are some more personalized alternatives. In D.C., we’re going to have our call center open 24 hours, seven days a week. People can also get in-person help from specially trained “navigators” or others trained to help with enrollment, as well as from private insurance brokers. The open enrollment period will be from Oct. 1, 2013, through March 31, 2014.

SR: Seriously? How can four different carriers even dream up 300 different plans? Are these for individuals and groups?
people misunderstand that. The first open enrollment period will be longer, but the future enrollment periods will be 60 or 90 days. If you miss it, you may have to wait until the next open enrollment period. You could also get a tax penalty.

There are no limits on annual or lifetime health expenditures.

sr: There’s been a little excitement about this because the protections were delayed by a year for individuals and families with employer coverage. But when fully implemented, the law bars insurers from placing either annual or lifetime dollar limits on most types of benefits, which is a huge problem now, particularly for parents of children who are catastrophically ill at birth or people with costly diseases like cancer. People in this situation can burn through their lifetime or annual coverage rapidly. The law still does allow insurers to limit the number of visits or treatments, but dollar limits for most forms of care will be forbidden. So an insurer could limit a child with autism to only 10 visits annually for cognitive therapy. But the insurer cannot with autism to only 10 visits annually for cognitive therapy. But the insurer cannot

There is more information about the price of health insurance and more standard information about what is covered and what is not.

sr: The law essentially requires insurers now to use standard language in their summaries so that what is meant by a deductible in one insurance plan is the same as another. There will be standard definitions and terminology, written in plain English. The summaries of what you get do not always include the last detail. It will always be necessary to check with insurers about the fine print of coverage in the case of complex procedures. But generally speaking, most coverage will be explained in standardized language. There also will be helpful examples such as what will it cost plan members to, say, have a baby.

It expands Medicaid coverage for lower-income people in states that elect to extend coverage.

sr: The bottom line is that Medicaid expansion for the poorest Americans was supposed to be nationwide. Everybody with an income below 133 percent of the federal poverty level was supposed to have Medicaid. But in 2012, the Supreme Court ruled that states could not be required to expand their Medicaid programs and could therefore opt out of the expansion. As a result, at least right now, nearly half the states have not expanded Medicaid. For the poorest adults in these states, there will effectively be no health reform.

The Medicare donut hole will close.

sr: Prescription drug coverage in Medicare is essentially a plan that offers preventive coverage as well as a catastrophic plan for people whose out-of-pocket expenses after the first preventive benefit exceed a high threshold. The ACA effectively closes this coverage gap—or “donut hole”—over a 10-year time frame. It doesn’t go away all at once, but every year the amount beneficiaries must pay before their back-end coverage takes effect shrinks a bit more.

Costs of routine health care for people who are patients in approved clinical trials are now covered.

lk: When people are in clinical trials, typically they are in an experimental therapy and the sponsor of the research study is responsible for covering those experimental costs. What’s been a hang-up in the past is that in many cases the experiment is only part of their total medical care. It doesn’t mean their hospital stay, their meals, or other routine care is paid for; those have not always been considered part of the experiment. That means people who go into approved medical trials—which are intended to help everybody by figuring out whether it is a good therapy or not—can run into problems because their insurance company could say, “You were part of an experimental trial. We’re not paying for that.” This new law basically says that the patient’s insurance company should pay for those other routine costs of care when people are in approved clinical trials. The experimental part and the research costs are still the responsibility of whoever is funding the study.

People under 26 can continue being covered with the family’s policy.

lk: This is something that has already gone into effect. What the ACA said is that young people under 26 can continue to be covered under their family’s health insurance policies. What traditionally happened is that children were covered until 21 or so and then they were off on their own. The problem is that lots of 20-somethings have a hard time getting a job or a job with health insurance benefits. In many cases—to their credit—health insurers were adopting this policy of covering the young adults even before the changes were required. A recent study indicates that this policy alone helped almost 8 million more young adults get health insurance coverage by staying on their family’s plan, before the main health reform insurance expansions have even been implemented. Beginning in 2014, when the main reforms go into effect, we should see far fewer people who are uninsured.

“...IN ORDER TO KEEP THE MARKET FUNCTIONING PROPERLY, YOU CAN’T WAIT AROUND UNTIL YOU ARE SICK TO GET INSURANCE.”

–SARA ROSENBAUM
A NEW PLAN OUTLINES THE VISION FOR A MORE COHESIVE, RESEARCH-INTENSIVE, AND WORLDLY UNIVERSITY BY GW’S 2021 BICENTENNIAL.

BY DANNY FREEDMAN
Milestone birthdays serve it up like no other: a slice of introspection. Adjustments are made perhaps, and, with any luck, a step is taken into the future that is confident, bold even, but calculated by experience.

So it is at 21 and 30 and for the march up and over the hill, and so administrators hope it will be for GW as the university prepares for its bicentennial in 2021.

After two years of planning, including dozens of presentations, meetings, and forums, a new 10-year strategic plan now offers a glimpse of the university that will take that first step into its third century.

The planning document, called Vision 2021, paints the image of a GW striving to be more open to unconventional thinking; that capitalizes on its location while working harder to show students the world; and where the space between scholarly silos is farmed for answers to big research questions.

The blueprint, approved in May by GW’s board, was guided by an accounting of the university’s strengths, and of trends in higher education and the world at large.

The previous 10-year plan, begun in 1999 and adopted in 2002, was suited for a time “characterized by the growth of a very short-term, utilitarian view of education,” GW Provost Steven Lerman said at a forum last year. “This sort of rejects that. We care if students get jobs, but we don’t want to focus overly on that first job at the expense of an education that will be durable throughout their lifetimes.”

According to the plan, one key part of that will be encouraging cross-disciplinary learning and research.

GW students “frequently encounter obstacles to crossing traditional disciplinary boundaries,” says Forrest Maltzman, the senior vice provost for academic affairs and planning, who served on the new plan’s steering committee. “One of the things we hope to do this year is to go through our own regulations with a sledgehammer and get rid of as many of these constraints that exist on our students as possible.”

Changes to the way school budgets are handled would enable, for instance, international affairs students to more easily take classes in engineering or business and students to prepare for careers in the music industry, Dr. Maltzman says.

The plan also calls for the creation of minors in far-reaching topics like poverty, immigration, energy, and AIDS, building on the success of a new minor in sustainability. That program, which launched last fall and has nearly 75 students enrolled, draws its courses from all corners of the university. And its core course is taught jointly by faculty members from the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, College of Professional Studies, Law School, School of Engineering and Applied Science, and School of Public Health and Health Services.

The theme will carry into research with, among other things, the creation of eight to 12 interdisciplinary institutes, including two that launched last year: the Computational Biology Institute and the Global Women’s Institute.

Plans also include supporting the growth of interdisciplinary research through new faculty hires, new funding opportunities, and new graduate-level programs.

Scholarship and collaboration among researchers in the same field remains vital, Dr. Maltzman says, but “the higher education structure has sometimes limited what we’re able to accomplish.”

The plan also strives for greater cohesion, in general. In years to come, the plan envisions undergraduates being admitted to the university as a whole, rather than individual schools; students completing a common slate of core curricular requirements; and a few thematic threads becoming part of the fabric of a GW education: cross-disciplinary collaboration, a more globalized perspective, citizenship and leadership, and governance and policy.

The last one, a historical strength built on GW’s location, is “in our DNA, and we want to embrace it across the curriculum,” Dr. Maltzman says, “whether it’s in engineering or public health or international affairs or business.”

At the same time, university administrators plan to develop more immersive study abroad programs and internship opportunities, and to increase foreign enrollment at GW among both the undergraduate and graduate student bodies.

“One thing I think we all need to do is challenge ourselves and challenge our students more,” Dr. Maltzman says. “Forcing people outside of the disciplines that they’re most comfortable in is a way of challenging ourselves; exposing ourselves to different cultures and different languages is another way of challenging ourselves. We need to not shy away from these sorts of battles but embrace them.”

“Our university’s capacity to thrive in the years ahead requires us to embrace the diversity of the GW community and to transcend the disciplinary boundaries that often define different roles within the university.”

– STEVEN LERMAN, Vision 2021 strategic plan
The new 10-year strategic plan, called Vision 2021, outlines a course for academic and research growth that will shape the university as it prepares to enter its third century. The plan builds on four themes: innovation through cross-disciplinary collaboration; globalization of educational and research programs; expansion of programs that focus on governance and policy in the public and private sectors; and infusing the university’s work with the ideas of citizenship and leadership.

As presented in the plan’s executive summary, below is a brief look at some of its major initiatives. For more detail on specific changes, the thought process behind them, and how they will be funded, the full strategic plan can be seen online at provost.gwu.edu/strategic-plan.

To improve what and how students learn, the university will:
• Create a more unified undergraduate educational experience
• Admit undergraduate students to the university as a whole rather than to schools
• Design a new core curriculum
• Increase the global aspects of curricula and double the fraction of students from abroad
• Improve the linkage between academic programs and students’ educational experiences outside the classroom
• Focus on the quality of education in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics
• Enhance the postgraduation opportunities for students and strengthen the quality of the graduate student body

To advance the goals of GW research, the university will:
• Create eight to 12 cross-disciplinary institutes with the financial support necessary to undertake research in new fields
• Hire 50 to 100 new faculty members in areas of research identified in the plan
• Improve the infrastructure that supports research
• Encourage applied, translational, and policy research that works toward solutions to and new perspectives on significant societal problems

To advance GW’s focus on service and teaching students to harness knowledge for the benefit of humankind, the university will:
• Develop ways to communicate the results of research more effectively to the general public
• Make GW a leader in shaping the national dialogue in areas of our academic strengths
• Expand our role as a model institutional citizen
ANNUAL GIVING HAS RECORD YEAR

Gifts totaling $12.8 million mark largest ever annual giving campaign.

Through letters, emails, and more than 12,000 phone calls, George Washington University wrapped up the largest annual giving campaign in its history last year. With the support of 18,566 alumni, parents, students, friends, faculty and staff members, as well as corporations and foundations, the university raised a record-breaking $12.8 million in annual gifts.

“Giving back to GW is important to me,” says Charles Adkins, MS ’63, DSc ’69, who has been an annual donor since 1979. “When I first came here, the university gave me an opportunity to continue my studies, and that’s all I ever wanted. Supporting the school is a way for me to say thank you for all the amazing memories and the great education I received during my time there.”

Donors designated their gifts to diverse funds across the university, including the Power & Promise Fund for scholarships and student aid, individual schools, the Buff & Blue Fund for athletics, and other areas like libraries and student organizations.

“I give to Power & Promise because it eases the financial burden of higher education for students, allowing them to focus on their academic ingenuity,” Sean Jamieson, BA ’03, says. “I also give to the Africana Research Center to further the advancement of cultural diversity and awareness.”

Mr. Jamieson and Mr. Adkins are two of the many loyal donors who make a gift every year, providing a reliable and direct source of immediate funding for programs and schools across the university.
NEW CLASS, NEW CHALLENGE

2014 Senior Class Gift Campaign aims to top last year’s numbers with a new challenge.

A tradition dating back to the 1980s, the Senior Class Gift Campaign has seen participation more than double since 2008, and the Class of 2014 is looking to continue that growth by outdoing last year’s record of 54 percent participation and more than $88,500 in total giving.

“The success of previous classes is something that motivates us rather than intimidates us,” says Will Ellingson, one of the campaign’s student coordinators. “We are ready to help the Class of 2014 make a lasting mark on the university as we transition into becoming alumni.”

Seniors can designate their gift for a specific area of the university, such as student organizations, scholarships, athletics, or specific schools or departments. The program’s growth in recent years is due in part to alumni challenges. Since 2012, GW Board of Trustees Chairman Nelson Carbonell, BS ’85, and his wife, Michele, have challenged seniors to meet a participation goal. As a reward, they have donated funds to scholarships in honor of the class. In 2014, the Carbonells are challenging the senior class with 55 percent participation. If seniors meet that goal, the Carbonells will make a $55,000 donation to scholarships on top of all funds raised by the Class of 2014.

“The Senior Class Gift Campaign is an important tradition for GW students,” says Rayna Bagchi, the campaign’s other student coordinator. “It’s an opportunity for graduates to look back on their time here and say thank you to the people and programs that help form their ‘Only at GW’ experiences.”
REPAYING A DEBT OF GRATITUDE

Alumnus has made annual gifts for 30 years to medical school that gave him a chance.

“I had no parents and no money,” says Fred Kohanna, MD ’78, as he reflects on being a 22-year-old on the verge of his first year at GW’s School of Medicine and Health Sciences.

It was his lifelong dream to become a doctor, but tuition wasn’t the only hurdle he had to overcome. His father died when he was 13, and he lost his mother just three days before he started his freshman year at Columbia University.

“I struggled to settle down and get back on my feet emotionally that first year of college,” he says. “It was a difficult time, and my academics suffered. Knowing how competitive medical school admissions were, I knew I had to refocus and commit myself to following my dream.”

Few medical schools seemed willing to look beyond the academic missteps of that first year, but that all changed the day Dr. Kohanna came to GW for an admissions interview and met Robert I. Keimowitz, professor emeritus and former assistant dean of admissions for the School of Medicine and Health Sciences.

“A lot of medical schools didn’t cut me any slack for what had gone on in my life, but when I came to GW, Dr. Keimowitz took my personal circumstances into consideration,” says Dr. Kohanna. “He took time in the interview to get to know me as a person, not just an applicant. I will always be appreciative of that consideration.”

Dr. Kohanna says he was thrilled when he was accepted to SMHS, the only school that offered him admission. To help afford tuition, Dr. Kohanna wrote letters to nearly 50 foundations but received little response. Then, one day, he received a letter from a D.C. philanthropist who was grateful for the treatment a family member had received at GW Hospital. Hoping to help a future GW doctor, he offered to pay for Dr. Kohanna’s first-year tuition with a commitment to continue the assistance so long as he remained in good standing.

“That’s how I made it through medical school,” Dr. Kohanna says. “If it wasn’t for that act of generosity, I would not be where I am today.”

Now a physician with nearly 25 years experience in surgery, emergency medicine, and occupational and environmental medicine, Dr. Kohanna has supported GW with a gift every year for the past 30 years. He plans to continue to support the school, eventually increasing his giving once his children have graduated from college.

“I will always be extremely grateful to GW for what they provided me in terms of my education and my career as a physician,” Dr. Kohanna says. “Making these annual gifts is my way of repaying a debt of gratitude. I’m not a big contributor but a consistent one, and I think that commitment to support is an important one.”

For more information on how you can support the GW Power & Promise Fund for Student Aid, contact Matt Banks at mbanks@gwu.edu or 202–994–5125.
(Left to right) Rebecca Hicks, BA ’13, Rachel Hicks, BA ’11, and Katie Hicks Thiele, BA ’08

**SIBLING LEADERSHIP PROGRAM**

Mother of three Women’s Leadership Program alumnae gives to the program.

Michelle Hicks was surprised when her oldest daughter, Katie Hicks Thiele, BA ’08, raised the idea of leaving their home state of Texas for college. But after Katie’s experience in the Women’s Leadership Program on the Mount Vernon Campus, she was not surprised at all when her other two daughters also chose GW.

“The Women’s Leadership Program set my daughters on the right foot academically and mentally, giving them connections that have made a difference as they move forward in life,” says Michelle, who made a $5,000 gift to the program last spring.

Katie, who is now a litigation attorney in McKinney, Texas, came to GW after being offered the Francine Zorn Trachtenberg Art History Scholarship.

“I already knew I wanted to major in art history, and I thought this would be a great opportunity to experience the art and culture in D.C.,” Katie says. “With the Women’s Leadership Program I also got to see how women developed their careers and to meet successful women in the community.”

Katie’s experience made joining WLP a “no brainer” for her sister Rachel Hicks, BA ’11. “Of all the things I’ve done at GW, it’s the most memorable,” she says.

Rachel was in the WLP’s politics cohort and studied international affairs at the Elliott School, but her goal was always medicine. When Rachel applied to medical school—she began her first year at the University of Texas at Houston in August—her WLP professors wrote the letters of recommendation.

Rachel and Katie say their younger sister, Rebecca Hicks, BA ’13, fell in love with GW the first time she saw the Mount Vernon Campus when she was barely 14. Rebecca, who graduated last May, was a member of the WLP’s arts and culture cohort. She will be spending two years as a Research Fellow at the NIH before continuing her pursuit of a PhD in clinical psychology.

Inspired by her daughters’ experiences, Michelle made a $5,000 gift to the Women’s Leadership Program last spring. “It may be unusual for three successful, high-achieving sisters to go through the GW’s Women’s Leadership Program,” she says, “but it is not unusual for the WLP to attract young women who are, ultimately, high-achieving and successful. The WLP is a great asset for the young women who attend GW.”

**GIFT FUNDS NEW MEDICAL PROGRAMS**

Pioneering physician supports multiple funds at SMHS with planned gift.

Friends, family, and faculty and staff members gathered at a ceremony and luncheon in June to celebrate and honor Leonard Akman, BA ’41, MD ’43, and his $3.2 million planned gift to GW’s School of Medicine and Health Sciences. Dr. Akman, who died in 2011, was remembered as a physician who put his patients first and an alumnus with deep gratitude for his alma mater.

The gift bequest will provide SMHS with funds for a variety of initiatives, including:

- The Charles and Sonia Akman Fellowship in Global Psychiatry
- The Leonard C. Akman Global Medicine Scholarships
- The Bryan J. Akman Memorial Scholarship for medical student tuition support
- The SMHS Dean’s Discovery Fund

The gift will also support the new Clinical Learning and Simulation Skills Center, which utilizes virtual reality and mock operating rooms for practicing essential skills and procedures.

“Establishing new professorships and other endowed funds is a mark of excellence for great medical schools and a key priority for our development efforts,” says Dennis Narango, associate vice president of medicine development and alumni relations. “Dr. Akman’s magnificent act of generosity affirms our highest ambitions and will impact GW for generations to come.”

A pioneer in heart transplantation, cardiac catheterization, and cineradiography, Dr. Akman worked diligently to bring new modalities to the bedside. He came from an era of house calls and regularly saw his patients in the middle of the night, and is remembered for taking time to get to know those he treated.

Jeffrey Akman, MD ’81, GM ’85, vice president for health affairs and dean of SMHS, is one of Dr. Akman’s cousins and considers him a mentor, friend, and visionary.

Planned gifts such as Dr. Akman’s help support GW’s efforts to provide financial aid, hire high-quality professors, and support important initiatives and programs at GW, as well as help people achieve their long-term tax and financial goals.
52 Years of Honoring Alumni

GW graduates have a reputation for being “citizen leaders.” Each year, the university recognizes these achievements of alumni with three different awards.

Partnering with the GW Alumni Association and the GW Black Alumni Association, GW presents annual awards to alumni who are making a difference at GW, as well as in their own communities and fields of work.

Recipients of all three awards are nominated by their peers, colleagues, or GW faculty or staff members, and then selected after a review period.

**Alumni Outstanding Service Awards**
The Alumni Outstanding Service Awards honor five alumni who advance the mission of the university through their volunteer efforts. Included in these annual awards is the Jane Lingo Alumni Outstanding Service Award. This award recognizes the volunteer efforts of a faculty or staff member who is also an alumnus of the university.

The 2013 recipients were honored in April at the 52nd Annual Outstanding Alumni Service Awards. All alumni are invited to attend the event each year.

GW graduates—from all degree programs and all schools of study—are lifetime members of the GW Alumni Association. This relationship makes alumni part of GW’s worldwide, lifelong community, and eligible for all the benefits and services that go with membership. It also opens the door to become directly involved in the advancement of the George Washington University.

**Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award**
Since 1937, GW has honored alumni for their noteworthy professional accomplishments with the Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award. Just one person is selected to receive the award each year.

The DAAA is the highest form of recognition the university and the George Washington Alumni Association give to an alumnus on an annual basis.

To recognize newer alumni, the GWAA also presents the Recent Alumni Achievement Award. This annual award honors the achievements of an alumnus who graduated within the past 10 years.

This year’s ceremony during Alumni Weekend marked the 76th anniversary of the DAAA.

**Black Alumni Association IMPACT Award**
Also during Alumni Weekend, the GW Black Alumni Association honored three black alumni for outstanding achievements in their professions at the annual BAA IMPACT Awards and Showcase.

The IMPACT Awards and Showcase has been taking place since 2006. The GWBAA is just one of GW’s alumni affinity organizations; others include the Latino Alumni Association, LGBT Alumni Association, Alumni Emeriti Society, and more.

For more information on the awards and this year’s winners, visit alumni.gwu.edu/awards-recognition.
Alumni Welcome
Colonials Around the World

Each summer, incoming Colonials and their families gather at Summer Send-Off events hosted by alumni and parents throughout the world.

The Summer Send-Off series provides a unique opportunity for new students and their families to meet current members of the GW community and get a sneak peek of what it means to be a Colonial.

Often hosted in the home of an alumnus/a or parent, Summer Send-Offs create an inviting atmosphere for new students to begin their college career by meeting fellow incoming students and their families, as well as current students, alumni, and GW administrators.

This past summer, Summer Send-Offs were hosted in 25 cities across the U.S. International Summer Send-Offs took place in more than 25 cities, from Athens to Tokyo.

“Our Summer Send-Off gave incoming students and their families an opportunity to meet each other, share anxieties, generate excitement, and build relationships,” says Bernard (Buddy) Lesavoy, BBA ’80, MBA ‘82, JD ’87.

Mr. Lesavoy, whose daughter graduated in 2012 and whose son is a current student, hosted a Send-Off at his Allentown, Pa., home in July.

Summer Send-Offs provide an avenue for students to connect to their new GW community but also reconnect alumni to the student experience.

For more information about this series, visit alumni.gwu.edu/my-gw-generation/summer-send-offs.
As an alum of The George Washington University, you could save up to $427.96* on your auto insurance with Liberty Mutual. You could also enjoy valuable discounts tailored to the way you live today and save even more by insuring your home as well.

Responsibility. What's your policy?

Upgrade to an ocean view room, buy your monthly commuting pass, donate to your alumni association...whatever moves you most.

This organization receives financial support for allowing Liberty Mutual to offer this auto and home insurance program.

*Discounts are available where state laws and regulations allow, and may vary by state. To the extent permitted by law, applicants are individually underwritten; not all applicants may qualify. Figure reflects average national savings for customers who switched to Liberty Mutual's group auto and home program. Based on data collected between 1/1/2012 and 6/30/2012. Individual premiums and savings will vary. Coverage provided and underwritten by Liberty Mutual Insurance and its affiliates, 175 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA. © 2013 Liberty Mutual Insurance.

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It is noteworthy that the closing ceremony of Colonial Inauguration—GW’s three-day orientation for incoming freshmen—heavily focuses on the student-alumni connection, even before the first day of classes!

Fellow Colonials:

This is an exciting time for GW and for the Alumni Association! Much is happening on campus and at university and alumni events around the world. You can learn more about these happenings and about alumni benefits at alumni.gwu.edu/gwaa.

Special recognition is due to our Immediate Past President Jim Core, MA ’96, for his leadership, vision, and passion. As we work together to achieve the GWAA’s mission of enabling lifetime engagement, gathering a voice for alumni, and building a culture of philanthropy, I am focused on four principal objectives for the next two years:

1. Promote a Culture of “Colonials Helping Colonials.”
The guiding principle here is that you lend a hand when a member of the GW community reaches out. We have a worldwide network of support, which plays out daily among students, alumni, and faculty and staff members. We need to do it more, and talk about it more. Identifying and labeling this commitment can help make it part of our daily expectation. As “Colonials Helping Colonials” becomes more embedded in the DNA of GW and the GWAA, we will enhance the value and character of our GW network. “Colonials Helping Colonials” can help define who we are.

2. Enhance the Student-Alumni Connection.
Strengthening student-alumni interaction serves a critical role for the GWAA, because we can help students be successful and because students recognize the value of networking. Recent GWAA presidents and boards strengthened the ties between students and alumni. In the next two years, we will carry the effort to the next level. It is noteworthy that the closing ceremony of Colonial Inauguration—GW’s three-day orientation for incoming freshmen—heavily focuses on the student-alumni connection, even before the first day of classes! This underscores the value of connecting with and supporting students.

3. Reinforce the Diversity of the GWAA.
There has been good progress on gender and multicultural diversity of the GWAA. We will continue to work collaboratively with various groups to strengthen this commitment. There are three additional areas of diversity that we are poised to address. These include outreach to military and veteran students and alumni who took few, if any, classes on the Foggy Bottom Campus. We will also assess how to approach virtual alumni—online students who may have never visited any GW campus.

4. Increase Engagement in Community Service.
Service to others strengthens our society and our character. Last year, alumni collaborated with students on a day of service, along with other service activities. Our goal is to expand the number of events and offer different ways to involve alumni in community service at GW.

You can make a difference for yourself and others by getting involved. The GWAA hosts events across the globe, and you can also participate through social media and virtual networking. We need you, your ideas, and your opinions; please feel free to share them with us at alumni@gwu.edu.

Best regards,

Steve Frenkil, BA ’74 and Past Parent (’06, ’10)
President GWAA, 2013-15
alumni.gwu.edu/gwaa
Alumni Weekend 2013

More than 2,500 alumni returned to the George Washington University this fall to attend Alumni Weekend 2013, which included events such as a Cyndi Lauper concert, class reunions, the annual Taste of GW food festival on University Yard, and more than 70 other gatherings.

“Alumni Weekend 2013 is the most successful so far,” says Associate Vice President for Alumni Relations and Development Adrienne A. Rulnick. “We are so proud to see Alumni Weekend established as an important and integral part of the GW landscape.”

For more photos from Alumni Weekend 2013, visit www.gwalumni.org.

Cyndi Lauper performed a two-hour set of new songs and classics such as “Time After Time” and “True Colors.”

Middle left: Alumni from the Class of 1963 and earlier gathered at the 50-Year Reunion and Alumni Emeriti Induction Ceremony.

Middle: A sold-out crowd welcomed Cyndi Lauper to the stage at Friday’s All Alumni Concert.

Bottom: George stopped by the five-year reunion celebration Saturday night.
Alumni News

Top: Greek Life memorabilia was on display to celebrate GW’s fraternities and sororities at the Greek Life Reunion. First row left: A group of alumni chatted with a current resident of Thurston Hall during the “Back to Thurston” tour. First row right: Co-sponsored by the Graduate School of Political Management and the GW Alumni Association, this year’s political brunch “Bipartisanship: How Do We Find Common Ground and Enact Positive Change to the American Political Landscape?” featured (from left) former U.S. Senator Trent Lott, GSPM Associate Professor and Political Management Master Program Director Lara M. Brown, former U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman, and GSPM Director Mark Kennedy. Second row right: Alumni caught up and networked at the LGBT Alumni Reception on Saturday afternoon. Bottom left: Guests sampled a variety of food, desserts, and beverages from 15 GW alumni owned and/or operated business at the sold-out Taste of GW festival. Bottom right: Thursday evening’s Multicultural Alumni Reception was another event that drew a capacity crowd.
GW Alumni Association Board of Directors members volunteer their time to represent 250,000 alumni around the world. They give a voice to the alumni community, help strengthen its relationship with GW, and work with the Office of Alumni Relations to implement programs and services for all alumni.

“I’ve gained real insight into how the university works and how I can influence the experiences of students and alumni, both now and in the future,” says board member Paula Segal, BA ’69, MA ’74.

New board members, inducted in June, include 17 members-at-large, five school representatives, and a new president, Steven Frenkil, BA ’74. All board members serve three-year terms.

Members-at-large are appointed through a nominations process conducted by the GWAA Nominations and Governance Committee. Each school representative is appointed by the school’s respective dean.

While board members change each year, the GWAA’s key goals remain the same: to enable lifelong engagement of alumni, institutionalize a dialogue between alumni and the university, and build a culture of philanthropy.

Are you interested in serving on the GWAA Board of Directors? If you’re a GW graduate from any school or degree program, you’re automatically a lifetime member of the GW Alumni Association and eligible to apply for the board. Serving on the board is one important way that you can help to advance the university and shape the future of the lifelong, worldwide community of GW alumni.  

For more information, visit alumngwu.edu/gw-alumni-association.
GW Trio Launch Interior Design Business

Have you ever wanted to redesign a room but felt you couldn’t afford to hire a designer? Meet three Colonials who beg to differ—and who started their own interior design firm to prove it.

Beatrice Fischel-Bock, BA ’13, Elizabeth (Lizzie) Grover, BA ’13, and Madeline Fraser, BA ’14, met in an architectural drafting class at GW—the first course in their shared interior design major.

After taking several classes together and studying abroad in London as a trio, they hatched the idea to form their own business. In February 2013, ZOOM Interiors was born.

The company, which is geared toward college students and young professionals, is a time-efficient and cost-effective design service. ZOOM puts together and decorates spaces for clients in a short time, while keeping the budget affordable.

“For people don’t realize how inexpensive interior design can be—we want to make it accessible to everybody, no matter their budget,” Ms. Grover says.

ZOOM clients first fill out an online survey, which helps the designers gauge each client’s particular style and plot out design ideas. Once the design is finalized, ZOOM purchases everything online, and schedules a delivery date. The entire process takes three to four weeks.

If clients are located in D.C. or Philadelphia, ZOOM also provides the installation. For those in other cities, the products are shipped with a step-by-step installation guide tailored to the clients’ space.

“There is nothing out there that provides this kind of service at our speed, prices, and ease,” Ms. Fischel-Bock says.

ZOOM is dedicated to finding clients the best deals while making the design process as simple as a few clicks.

“We’re unique because we customize furniture, form one-of-a-kind installations, and create custom art for the spaces, all on a reasonable budget,” Ms. Fraser explains. “I am a painter and a sculptor, and will make works of art specifically to fit the client’s space.”

“We hope to make ZOOM a service that is synonymous with moving into your first apartment or dorm—no matter where you live.” Ms. Fischel-Bock says.

The three women had different paths to GW—Ms. Grover transferred to pursue interior design in a big city, Ms. Fraser received a Presidential Scholars in the Arts Scholarship, and Ms. Fischel-Bock was drawn to GW’s location and D.C.’s unique blend of culture, arts, and design. But all three say the university provided a great pathway for becoming entrepreneurs.

“Because of the GW interior design program and professors, we felt prepared and well-versed in the interior design field,” Ms. Grover says. “Between the faculty support, our well-rounded liberal arts education, and experience abroad, we were inspired to try something new in design.”

For more information on ZOOM Interiors, visit www.zoominteriordesign.com.

Behind WWII’s Largest Rescue Operation

Swiss Consul Carl Lutz, BA ’24, launched the largest rescue operation of World War II and is credited with saving 62,000 Jews from Nazi death camps.

His actions have inspired many, and now, they have also inspired Hollywood.

Mr. Lutz, who was nominated three times for the Nobel Peace Prize and named Righteous Among the Nations by Yad Vashem, will be portrayed in an upcoming film by Hollywood’s Liberty Studios, Walking with the Enemy.

The film features the story of Elek Cohen, who was a member of a secret ring protecting Hungarian Jews during the Holocaust. Mr. Cohen was protected by Mr. Lutz, who was serving in the Department of Emigration at the Swiss Embassy in Budapest. Mr. Lutz helped obtain permits for Hungarian Jews to immigrate to Israel before and after the German invasion in 1944.

The film stars Academy Award winner Sir Ben Kingsley and Jonas Armstrong, and is directed by Mark Schmidt. Mr. Lutz is played by Canadian-born actor William Hope, who was previously featured in James Cameron’s Alien and The Saint with Val Kilmer.

Born in Walzenhausen, Switzerland, Mr. Lutz served 20 years in various Swiss posts in the United States before receiving assignments in the Middle East and Eastern Europe. He graduated from GW in 1924 after studying history and law.

In Los Angeles, a tree will be dedicated to Mr. Lutz, who died in 1975, in the Garden of the Righteous of the Holocaust Museum.
Alumni and America’s Pastime

For the past eight years, GW has been celebrating baseball in Washington, D.C., and other cities around the country through alumni gatherings at baseball games.

On July 26, D.C.-based Colonials met up for the annual evening at the Washington Nationals game.

Before the Nats took on the New York Mets, alumni enjoyed food and drinks at a pre-game reception, which featured remarks from Nationals owner Mark Lerner, BBA ’75.

Games took place around the country throughout last summer. The series will start up again next spring.

For more information, visit alumni.gwu.edu/news-events.

PROFILE

Reporting for Duty at GW

When U.S. Navy Lt. Cmdr. Alex Dietrich-Greene, BS ’01, finished a military assignment in Afghanistan, she jumped at an opportunity for her next duty station: return to GW as a naval science professor for the Navy ROTC department.

Since 2011, Ms. Dietrich-Greene has been teaching at GW, where she also serves as an academic adviser to more than 40 NROTC freshmen and is an MBA student. In 2012, she earned the “Most Outstanding NROTC Instructor of the Year” award from the National Defense Industrial Association.

Ms. Dietrich-Greene first arrived at GW in 1997 to study civil engineering—a degree she felt was the best path to achieve her lifelong dream of becoming a military pilot. Because of the opportunities to fly with the Navy, Ms. Dietrich-Greene applied for and received an NROTC scholarship.

After receiving her aviator wings in March 2003, she was immediately deployed to a tactical squadron. As a strike-flight aviator piloting an F/A-18F Super Hornet, Ms. Dietrich-Greene executed more than 200 air combat missions in support of ground troops in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. Overall, she logged more than 1,250 flight hours and 375 carrier arrested landings.

Her next assignments brought Ms. Dietrich-Greene back to D.C., working for the chief of Naval Personnel and then for the Navy’s Office of Irregular Warfare. In 2010, with the military’s shortage in key fields during two wars, she returned to Afghanistan as a civil engineer.

“The Army needed officers with engineering training to augment the shortage of personnel serving in the region,” she says. “Even though I was a naval officer and had never practiced as a professional engineer, the core skills I learned at GW enabled me to perform confidently throughout the duration of the deployment with the Army, building schools, health clinics, roads, bridges, and basic infrastructure for the Afghan people.”

After an intense year in a war zone, Ms. Dietrich-Greene says she was relieved to return safely to D.C. and to her husband, Michael, who is also a Colonial.

In addition to her work at GW, Ms. Dietrich-Greene volunteers in the local community with youth athletic and mentoring programs. She also continues to give back to the GW community; in June 2013, she joined the GW Alumni Association’s Board of Directors.

“I didn’t graduate and consider my time at GW over,” she says. “I have continued to return to GW in multiple capacities, whenever I could find an excuse or invitation to go to a Colonial sporting event, host a dinner for students at my home, speak to a class, or come back full time, as I am now.”

“I consider myself a Colonial through and through,” she says. “I’m always looking for opportunities to support and improve GW.”

U.S. Navy Lt. Cmdr. Alex Dietrich-Greene, BS ’01
Charlotte (Lamm) Whitney Stevens, BA ’45, recently donated a collection of her acrylic paintings to her local city hall in Olivet, Mich. The collection depicts the town’s early days, dating back to 1844. Ms. Stevens has shown art in about 80 shows throughout the United States. Her artwork deals with the relationship between nature, architecture, and people.

Russell Tomar, BA ’59, MD ’63, is the author of Don’t Stop Dreaming: Sex, Death, Fear, Bigotry and Greed: A Physician-Scientist’s Odyssey at the Dawn of AIDS (Maven Mark Books, 2013). The book tells the story of the early years of AIDS from the point of view of Dr. Tomar, a physician-scientist in New York City at the epidemic’s onset.

Vincent T. DeVita Jr., MD ’61, HON ’84, was an inaugural winner of OncLive’s “Giants of Cancer Care” award, which recognized the contributions to cancer research and clinical practice of 12 oncology luminaries. Dr. DeVita was honored for his innovations in combination chemotherapy regimens for large-cell lymphomas.

Don Ardell, BA ’63, performed in the annual Robert Green Ingersoll Oratory Contest June 30 in Washington, D.C. The event, which takes place in D.C.’s Dupont Circle, honors Robert G. Ingersoll, a 19th-century speaker known as the Great Agnostic. Participants compete for prizes by delivering a brief excerpt from Mr. Ingersoll’s works.

Marion Eggleton, MBA ’68, writing under his pen name Michael Ashbury, has published his sixth book, Baby Boomer Love, which is a step-by-step guide for boomers looking for romance: where to look, how to communicate, evaluating the opportunities, and avoiding the possible pitfalls. A frequent contributor to local and national publications, Mr. Eggleton has published previous books on relationships, religion, and politics.

Mark Books, 2013). The book tells the story of the life of her father, a high school baseball player for Cardozo High School in Washington, D.C. She was inspired to write stories for children and young adults by her children’s literature professor at GW.

Greg Blue, BA ’90, JD ’95, has been announced as the resident partner in charge of Dilworth Paxson’s recently opened New York City office. Mr. Blue will serve in the litigation department, where he will be devoted to business litigation resolving complex financial disputes.

Ira Gubernick, BBA ’86, formerly a partner at Klee Harrison Harvey Branzburg, has joined Cozen O’Connor corporate law practice as a partner in its Philadelphia office. He has experience in both the gambling and health care industries.

Christine Turner Jackson, BA ’88, is the author of Pitch Black (CreateSpace, 2013), a young adult novel based on the life of her father, who was a high school baseball player for Cardozo High School in Washington, D.C. She was inspired to write stories for children and young adults by her children’s literature professor at GW.

Joshua Glazov, BA ’92, a principal attorney at Chicago-based Much Shelist, received the Illinois Bankers Association’s Distinguished Bank Counsel Award on June 25, 2012. The award has only been presented on rare occasions—just 8 times in the IBA’s 122-year history.


Scott Kirby, MS ’93, is president of US Airways Group Inc., and its principal subsidiary company, US Airways. He is based at the airline’s headquarters in Tempe, Ariz.

William (Bill) Riley, BA ’98, joined the Miami office of GrayRobinson as a shareholder in the public law and land use practice group. Prior to joining the firm, he served as land use counsel to Variety Children’s Hospital for the expansion of Milani Children’s Hospital. He is a member of the Florida bar’s environmental and land use law section and its city, county, and local government law section. In addition, Mr. Riley was recognized as a 2013 Florida Super Lawyer.

Lonnie D. Giambela, BA ’99, was featured on the 2013 “Southern California Rising Stars” list, selected by Super Lawyers. The list recognizes attorneys who are 40 or younger. Mr. Giambela currently serves as a managing partner of the Los Angeles office of Fisher & Phillips LLP, where his practice includes preventive counseling, preparation of documents such as employee handbooks and compensation plans, and litigation before state and federal administrative agencies and courts.

Nick Greenwood, BA ’99, joined the Salt Lake City office of Parsons Behle & Latimer as a member of its corporate transactions and securities department.

Anthony Slonim, MPH ’99, DPH ’05, has been elected to the board of directors for the American College of Physician Executives. He was one of three new board members selected in late February, and he began his three-year term during the ACPE annual meeting in New York April 26. Dr. Slonim is executive vice president and chief medical officer of Barnabas Health as well as president of the Barnabas
Health Medical Group.

**Fabrice Toka, MBA ’99,** was appointed senior director, business and relationship management, for Fitch Ratings in its sub-Saharan Africa region. Mr. Toka, who joined Fitch in 2000, previously served in several analytical positions. The sub-Saharan region covers about 30 countries, across which Mr. Toka will be responsible for expanding Fitch’s rating coverage.

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**Saima Huq, MPH ’00,** works on Hip Hop Public Health, a New York City-based initiative. Hip Hop Public Health collaborated with Dr. Oz and Michelle Obama’s “Let’s Move” campaign to release the album “Songs for a Healthier America,” featuring American Idol-winner Jordin Sparks, Doug E. Fresh, Ashanti, Artie Green, and other artists.

**Laura Shannon, MBA ’00,** joined the accounting and management consulting firm Halt, Buzas & Powell as controller. The firm is located in Alexandria, Va. Previously, Ms. Shannon served as administration and accounting manager at Norman Data Defense Systems for 17 years.

**Rand Haley, MA ’01,** joined Berkeley Research Group as a principal in the firm’s higher education consulting practice. He focuses on helping universities navigate complex strategic challenges.

**David Holt, BA ’01,** has published his first book, *Big League City: Oklahoma City’s Rise to the NBA* (Full Circle Press, 2012). The current Oklahoma senator and former chief of staff to the mayor of Oklahoma City, tells the story of the arrival of major league sports to the city. The proceeds from book sales before June 25 were donated to the American Red Cross of Central and Western Oklahoma to benefit tornado recovery.

**David Rapp, MD ’01,** summited Alaska’s Mount McKinley this summer, with a team of six, as part of a charity expedition with Giving to Extremes. GTE was founded in 2012 by Dr. Rapp and other local physicians and is dedicated to providing surgical care to people living in impoverished nations. GTE enrolls athletes to run, cycle, swim, and climb in support of the charity. For more information about Giving to Extremes, visit givingtoextremes.org.

**Heather Hawes, MTA ’02,** was selected for Who’s Who in Black *Atlanta Magazine* and a Graduate of Excellence in Leadership at Spelman College. She is also the winner of the 2013 Organizational Planner of the Year from Event Solutions magazine.

**Andrew Hartman, MA ’03, PhD ’06,** an associate professor of history at Illinois State University, was named the 2013-14 Fulbright Distinguished Chair in American Studies at the University of Southern Denmark in Odense. The appointment will begin in August, and Hartman will remain in Odense until June 2014.

**Jackie Rodriguez, BA ’03,** was awarded the Order of the Pegasus from the University of Central Florida. Ms. Rodriguez is one of four winners, chosen from more than 8,000 graduate students, to receive the award. She graduated in August with a PhD in education. Her dissertation is “An Examination of Inclusive Education Services Operated by the Jordan Field of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East.”

**Elliott M. Bassin, BS ’04,** was appointed a member of the advisory council of the Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants for its 2013-14 year. Mr. Bassin is a partner in the firm of Bregman & Company in Stamford, Conn.

**Alessandra Mediagi, BA ’04,** was married to James Edward Agnew II on Nov. 2, 2012, at St. Anthony’s Church in Hawthorne, N.J. The reception was at the Grove in Cedar Grove, N.J., and was attended by fellow Colonials, including William Tagg, BA ’02; Jessica Bal-Cangiani, BA ’04; Obele Brown-West, BA ’04; Daniel DiBona, BA ’04; Allison Hoiem-Tagg, BA ’04; John Mezey, BA ’04; and Jennifer Roth, BA ’04.

**Andrew Anderlonis, BBA ’06,** was named president of Rediker Software, a student information system company. Previously, Mr. Anderlonis served as the company’s director of business and operations, where he project-managed the release of several new products. At GW, Anderlonis studied international business and management information systems before becoming a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy’s elite nuclear program.

**Elizabeth Leavy, BA ’07,** joined the Washington, D.C., office of Husch Blackwell as an associate primarily focused on government contracts litigation. She will also assist the firm’s energy team with federal energy regulatory commission matters. Prior to joining the firm, Ms. Leavy practiced with the Washington, D.C., firm of McCarthy, Sweeney & Harkaway.

**Bea Querido, BBA ’07, MTA ’08,** was selected by the Embassy of the Philippines to participate in the 2013 Filipino American Youth Leadership Program. The program, featuring meetings and dialogues with officials and policymakers as well as artists, entrepreneurs, and leaders of industry, took place in Manila from July 7 to July 11, 2013.

**Chris W. Bell, MPS ’08,** and his wife, Noelle, welcomed their first child, Joaquin Perry Bell, in March 2013. Mr. Bell was also accepted to law school at St. Mary’s University School of Law.

**Gerardo Giannoni, MBA ’08,** published *Howard Schultz’s Secrets of Success* (Bacquiano Books, 2013), which combines relevant historical quotes from the entrepreneur himself—the engine behind the success of coffee giant Starbucks.

**Molly Ostenberg, MBA ’08,** was elected treasurer of the American Society of Appraisers, D.C. Chapter. She is a manager in Inovtax’s valuation and litigation practices.

**Joyce Roldan, BA ’08,** was sworn in as an assistant state’s attorney for the Frederick County State’s Attorney’s District Court Division. Ms. Roldan will be among eight other District Court prosecutors who handle about 12,000 criminal and serious traffic cases a year. Previously, she worked as a law clerk for the circuit administrative judge of Frederick and Montgomery counties.

**Chris Domes, EdD ’09,** was appointed the 10th president of Silver Lake College of the Holy Family in Manitowoc, Wis. He previously served as vice president for student development and enrollment management at Marymount University in Virginia.

**Carolyn Rogers Schintzius, BA ’09,** and Charles J. Coppa, BBA ’09, were married at the Wequassett Resort on Pleasant Bay, Cape Cod. Fellow GW alumnus Christopher Bourque, BS ’09, was best man. The bride is a defense analyst at Booz Allen Hamilton of Norfolk, Va. The groom is a naval aviator assigned to the “Seahawks” of Carrier Airborne Command and Control Squadron One Two Six in Norfolk, Va. The couple resides in Virginia Beach, Va.

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**Jeremy Iulianian, BA ’13,** led the American delegation to the 2013 Young Americans for Diplomatic Leadership Y8 Summit June 24 to June 28 in London. Mr. Iulianian served as president of the delegation, developing and coordinating a national policy that reflects the interests and values of the United States. Nearly 200 delegates from the G8 and G20 nations participated in the weeklong negotiations on a range of issues related to environmental, defense, and financial policy among other topics.

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**IN MEMORIAM**

Albert Frederick Padley, BA ’39
May 21, 2013
Los Angeles

Luellyn Withrow, BA ’43
Nov. 28, 2012
Ogden, Utah

Jordan S. Ruboy, AA ’49, BS ’50
July 20, 2013
Concord, Mass.

Francis Kopp Zugel, BS ’57, JD ’61
Jan. 30, 2013
Gaithersburg, Md.

Irene Prentice Allemano, MA ’61
April 13, 2013
St. Augustine, Fla.

Richard J. Vipond, BA ’61, JD ’63
Oct. 1, 2012
Omaha, Neb.

Henry S. Salmon, MS ’66
Sept. 1, 2013
Richmond, Va.

Col. Warren P. Baker, MS ’67, MA ’77
Aug. 8, 2013
Falls Church, Va.

Carol Duncan, BA ’71
July 14, 2013
New Harmony, Ind.
James Reichman, MS '72
Aug. 1, 2013
Atlanta

Joel Silidker, BS '74, MD '79
July 6, 2013
New Haven, Conn.

Tom Greenwell, BA '78
July 15, 2013
Corpus Christi, Texas

David Dah-Wei Yu, MS '85
Nov. 27, 2011
Falls Church, Va.

FACULTY AND STAFF
Charlotte W. Conable, MA '76
Women Studies Program and Policy Center
July 19, 2013
Sarasota, Fla.

Two members of the GW community lost their lives in the mass shooting at the Navy Yard. Gerald “Jer” Read, MA ’90, and Vishnu “Kisan” B. Pandit, father of Siddhesh V. Pandit, BS ’02, and of Kapil V. Pandit, MS ’06, were among the 12 people killed in Washington, D.C., on September 16.

Mr. Read earned a master’s degree in sociology from the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences. He lived in Alexandria, Va., and worked as an information assurance specialist with the Navy Sea Systems Command, according to news reports. He is survived by his wife, daughter, and three grandchildren.

Mr. Pandit, an engineer, lived in North Potomac, Md., and was employed by the U.S. Navy. He is survived by his wife, two sons, and a grandchild.

AND WHAT ABOUT YOU?
Submit your own class note, book, or Artists’ Quarter update:
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UPCOMING SHOWS BY GW PROFESSORS AND ALUMNI

ARTISTS’ QUARTER

KRISTIN HERZOG, MFA ’74

Since retiring seven years ago in the Washington, D.C., area, Kristin Herzog, MFA ’74, has been building a new career as an artist. Her next solo show will open at the Arts Club of Washington on Nov. 1. Last summer she painted in Bavaria through an artist residency with the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, and she previously participated in an artist residency in Auvillar, France. Her next painting retreat will be near Melbourne, Australia.

MIRIAM MÖRSEL NATHAN, BA ’69, MA ’71

Miriam Mörsel Nathan, BA ’69, MA ‘71, will have a solo exhibit, “(looking back)(looking forward),” at the BBLA Gallery, Bohemian National Hall, in New York City from May 19 to June 16. On Nov. 9, her monoprints, commissioned for the new opera “Lost Childhood” by Philadelphia composer Janice Hamer, were exhibited at the Strathmore Music Center in Bethesda, Md., in conjunction with the performance of the opera. In spring 2014, her work will be included in the group exhibition “At the Table” at Galerie Myrtis in Baltimore. Ms. Mörsel Nathan also recently completed a residency at the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts.

SHERRY ZVARES SABARIA, BA ’59

Sherry Zvares Sabaria, BA ’59, exhibited her paintings in an exhibition called “Painting as Structure” at the Lee Hansley Gallery in Raleigh, N.C., from Sept. 5 to Oct. 8.
STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND CIRCULATION
USPS FORM 3526-R

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Heather O. Milke, Editor, GW Magazine

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