LEAD STORIES

THE INAUGURATION AND PRESIDENCY OF DONALD J. TRUMP

SPRING COMMENCEMENT 2017

NEW INITIATIVES

GOLD STARS

SPOTLIGHT: PRESIDENTS

CAMPUS NEWS

GREEN CAMPUS

CLASS NOTES

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

P-20

RESEARCH AND TECH

ON THE ROAD

ON THE BOOK SHELF

CAMPUS SUPPORT

CAMPUS MOVERS AND SHAKERS
With the initial release by President Donald J. Trump of an Executive Order barring U.S. access to people from certain countries, colleges and universities around the country responded swiftly. Below are stories about some Consortium members and their responses:

- Within three days of the February 4th issuance of the Order, Georgetown University, in adherence to its Jesuit traditions, announced it was providing resources to students and scholars affected by the Order. Upon the issuance of the first Order, Georgetown University President John DeGioia said “We are an institution that values the contributions of our international students, staff and faculty, and we are deeply committed to interreligious dialogue and providing a context in which members of all faith backgrounds are welcomed and encouraged to practice their faith;”

- In a story on this topic also related to Georgetown, Judge James Robart, who issued the court ruling suspending the February 4th Executive Order, is a graduate of Georgetown University Law Center (Law ’73). Judge Robart’s ruling blocking the implementation of the Order nationwide was upheld by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals which resulted in the Robart ruling continuing to block the president’s Executive Order from going into effect. Judge Robert, who was appointed to the Ninth Circuit by former President George W. Bush, was an editor of the Georgetown Law Journal while a student at the law school;

- Several schools around the country including George Washington University and George Mason University advised any students and faculty who might be affected by the ban to refrain from traveling outside the United States for fear that they would not be readmitted;

- University of Maryland President Wallace Loh issued a statement noting that while the university was assessing how the ban might impact it, initially, “the potential for negatively impacting the educational and research missions of our campus is significant;” President Loh joined other college leaders to affirm the value of having international
students and educators on campus hoping to combat the perception of the United States as hostile to foreign intellectuals;

- **George Mason University President Angel Cabrera** sent a letter to the university community expressing deep concern and noting the order was “unbefitting to a country built by immigrants on ideals of liberty and equality . . .”

- **American University** hosted a Town Hall meeting to discuss the matter even as it reported that none of its 21 students from impacted countries was detained;

- **Catholic University President John Garvey** issued a statement saying “We hope the newly elected administration will find a way to promote the common good of our citizens, including our national security, without departing from our nation’s great tradition of welcoming persons of good will who seek to make a better life here;”

- **George Washington University** reported that at least 74 students, visiting scholars and alumni could be impacted by the Executive Order because they are on Optional Practical Training, a visa status that allows for an extension of a previously validly issued student visa. One GW students reported that they were not allowed to board a plane in Iran, blocking the student’s ability to begin Spring Semester at GW, but there was no other reported incidents. Nonetheless, **GW President Steven Knapp** asked the campus community to offer support to colleagues and friends who may be worried about their own and their family’s future;

- Nearly fifty higher education organizations united to urge the Secretary of Homeland Security to ensure that the United States remains a destination for the brightest students and scholars from around the world. In addition, **Georgetown University President John DeGioia** and **University of Maryland President Wallace Loh** signed a letter also signed by 50 other university presidents including the entire Ivy League opposing the ban and seeking rectification or rescission of the ban, citing America's role as a “land of opportunity and a beacon of freedom in the world;”

- The **Consortium** posted statements from 14 of its 17 members (other than those affiliated with the federal government) on its web site shortly after the initial Executive Order was issued; and

- As of May 9th, the travel ban had not been implemented due to a second round of legal challenges opposing its revised version. Four GW students were arrested outside Ronald Regan Building in downtown DC during a protest against the second Executive Order. The students were part of an activist group called Each Other which staged a sit-in in the foyer of the building which houses the U.S. Customs and Border Protection agency charged with enforcing the ban. (For more on how the Executive Order has impacted specific students, see “Spotlight: Students.”)

States, localities and some college campuses are now grappling with whether to identify themselves as “sanctuaries” for undocumented residents. The issue is particularly poignant for those campuses who have admitted students who were granted a shield from federal prosecution under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program (DACA). In December, more than 70 leaders in Catholic higher education including **Catholic University President John Garvey**, **Trinity Washington University President Patricia McGuire**, and **Marymount University President Matthew Shank** signed a statement of solidarity with undocumented students, urging protection for those who arrived in the United States as children. The President has announced his
belief that DACA is illegal and Republican members of Congress have introduced legislation to cut
off federal funding for schools with policies and practices that “violate immigration laws.” Other
college presidents, including University of Maryland President Wallace Loh have
announced that they will not designate their campuses as “sanctuary campuses” because enrolled
students are already protected by the law.

Natalia Villalobos, a U.S. citizen, born and raised in the District of Columbia who graduated from a
DC high school, was denied a Tuition Assistance Grant (DCTAG) that would have helped her pay
for classes at Montgomery County Community College because her mother in not a U.S.
citizen or a legal permanent resident. The Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund
(MALDEF) has filed a federal lawsuit in the District on her behalf alleging that the DC TAG
program unfairly discriminates against US citizens like Natalia who have immigrant parents, even as
these students are living in the US legally. DCTAG officials claim that the program’s rules require
students to establish their proof of official residency through their parents. Natalia’s family argues
that DC TAG’s requirement excludes people who are otherwise eligible.

**The Inauguration and Presidency of Donald J. Trump**

On January 19th, CNN hosted a panel on the campus of George Washington University with
three Republican and three Democratic voters to discuss the Trump presidency, the Inauguration,
and the Women’s March on Washington. The interview, which aired over the next two days on
CNN’s “New Day,” featured a GW student—Owen Evans—from the College Democrats.

The GW Inaugural Ball was held on the evening of January 20th at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in
Woodley Park. This longstanding tradition celebrated George Washington University’s
politically active campus in the heart of Washington, DC, as well as its diverse student population
coming together for an event that epitomizes the phrase “Only at GW.”

Also on January 20th, the George Washington University College Democrats and
Generation Progress Action hosted “We Are Progress,” a first-of-its-kind summit to equip
progressive Millennials with issue-and-skill-based strategies to mount an effective resistance to the
Trump Administration. The Inauguration Day Boot Camp was held on GW’s campus. The
College Democrats also hosted its Winter Ball on January 21st.

Just after the Inauguration, on January 23rd, Georgetown University hosted a conference
entitled “International Law in the Trump Era: Expectations, Hopes and Fears,” which featured a
lively luncheon discussion between Associate Dean Rosa Brooks and former government official
John B. Bellinger III about whether international law will matter to the new administration.
Among other roles, Brooks was an adviser in the Defense Department during the Obama
Administration. Bellinger served as legal adviser at the State Department and on the staff of the
National Security Council during the George W. Bush presidency. The conference was sponsored
by the International & National Law Practice Group and Georgetown University’s Student
Division of the Federalist Society.
White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer participated in a one-on-one interview with George Washington University School of Media and Public Affairs Director Frank Sesno as part of an event titled, “Does Trump Need the News Media? Making and Shaping the News from 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.” Following the interview, journalists and former White House Press Secretary Ari Fleischer joined Mr. Sesno to discuss the Trump administration’s interactions with the media; the role of the White House Press Corps; and the access journalists should have covering the White House. The event was held on campus on January 30th and was widely covered by the media.

Members of the all-female a cappella group the GW Sirens, comprised of students from George Washington University, joined music artist Connie “MILCK” Lim and the DC-area women’s professional a cappella group Capital Blend in a performance of a song entitled “Quiet” that was written and arranged by Ms. Lim and performed at the Women’s March in Washington on January 21st. In the weeks since the March, a phone video of the performance by filmmaker Alma Har’el has been viewed more than 15 million times on Facebook, which led to an invitation for the group to perform the song on the weekly TBS show “Full Frontal with Samantha Bee.” Four members of the Sirens performed on the show—taped in New York City on January 25th—alongside Ms. Lim and three singers from Capital Blend.

George Washington University alumni were appointed to positions in the Trump administration including:
- Kellyanne Conway (JD ’92) as Counselor to the President; and
- Ninio Fetalvo (BA ’14) as White House Assistant Press Secretary.
(For more on Kellyanne Conway, see “Life After College”)

**SPRING COMMENCEMENT 2017**

Some Consortium members have begun staging or will shortly stage spring commencement ceremonies including:
- **The University of the District of Columbia** Class of 2017 which was addressed by entrepreneur and philanthropist Sheila C. Johnson, co-founder of Black Entertainment Television (BET); part-owner of the Washington Capitals (NHL), the Washington Wizards (NBA), and the Washington Mystics; and founder of Salamander Hotels and Resorts. Ms. Johnson was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Human Letters at Commencement Ceremonies on May 13th at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center. “We are honored and privileged to have Sheila Johnson as our commencement speakers,” said UDC President Ronald Mason. “Her distinguished career, entrepreneurial spirit, and philanthropic endeavors serve as an inspiration to our students as we encourage them to dream big and seek to be their personal best. Her passion for education and ingenuity is in line with the University of the District of Columbia’s mantra to——‘aspire, accomplish, and take on the world;’”
- **George Washington University** who will hear from GW alumna Senator Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) who received a Master’s from GW in 1992. She will deliver the commencement address at the university-wide ceremony on the National Mall on May 21st where she will receive an honorary degree of Doctor of Public Service. Also receiving
honorary degrees will be Lieutenant General Nadia Y. West (MD ’88) and Washington Post Executive Editor Marty Baron. Lt. Gen. West will also address graduating students at the M.D. Diploma Ceremony later that day;

- Peggy Noonan, a Wall Street Journal columnist, author, and former Special Assistant and Speechwriter to President Ronald Reagan, addressed the Catholic University of America Class of 2017 at Commencement Ceremonies scheduled for Saturday, May 13th. Noonan, whose column, “Declarations” has run weekly in the Wall Street Journal since 2000, is the author of nine books on American politics, history, and culture including the political classic What I Saw at the Revolution. Ambassador Charlene Barshefsky, who served as United States Trade Representative, the country’s top trade negotiator, from 1997-2001, will deliver the Commencement Address for the Columbus School of Law on Friday, May 26th. At the University-wide Commencement, Noonan received the degree of Doctor of Fine Arts, honoris causa and Barshefsky will receive a Doctor of Laws, honoris causa. The university also conferred honorary degrees on Joanne Conway and William E. Conway, benefactors of the William and Joanne Conway Nursing Scholars Program at Catholic University; Joseph Patrick Riley, Jr., who served as mayor of Charleston, SC from December 1975 to January 2016; and Mario Paredes, Chief Executive Officer of Advocate Community Providers and a founder the Catholic Association of Latino Leaders;

- Also on May 13th, U.S. Senator Kamal Harris (D-CA) addressed the 2017 graduating class of Howard University. Senator Harris is a Howard alumnae;

- Georgetown University will hold a series of commencement-related events from May 18th to 21st featuring a variety of speakers including Nate Silver, Editor-in-Chief of FiveThirtyEight and Gregory Gerrard Coleman, President, BuzzFeed;

- Mark Ciardi, Founder and CEO, Apex Entertainment, will address commencement ceremonies at the University of Maryland on May 21st. Mr. Ciardi, a UM graduate, has developed many films including Million Dollar Arm; Secretariat; Invincible; The Rookie, The Game Plan; and McFarland, USA;

- Trinity Washington University graduates will hear from DC Mayor Muriel Bowser on May 20th. At the ceremonies, Mayor Bowser will also receive an Honorary Doctor of Law from the university;

- George Mason University graduates will hear from Martin “Marty” Baron, Executive Editor of the Washington Post in ceremonies at Eagle Bank Arena on campus on May 20th;

- On May 21st, France Córdova, Director of the National Science Foundation will address the 2017 graduating undergraduate class at Marymount University. Réka Szemerényi, former Hungarian Ambassador to the United States will address the graduate class; and

- National Defense University will hold commencement ceremonies on June 8th at Fort McNair for its Graduate students. Additional ceremonies will be held on June 1st at Fort Bragg Army Base in North Carolina for graduates of the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and June 16th in Norfolk, VA for graduates of the Joint Forces Staff College. General Paul J. Selva, Vice Chairman, Joint Chief of Staff will address the McNair campus commencement ceremonies.

NEW INITIATIVES
Howard University has partnered with Google to launch Howard West, a three-month summer computer science residency for rising juniors and seniors in the university’s computer science program. The residency includes a dedicated workspace on Google’s Mountain View campus and a generous stipend to cover housing and other expenses in Silicon Valley. “Howard West will produce hundreds of industry-ready Black computer science graduates, future leaders with the power to transform the global technology space into a stronger, more accurate reflection of the world around us,” said Howard University President Wayne A. I. Frederick.

The University of Maryland has debuted its Discovery District encompassing more than 150 acres stretching from Baltimore Avenue to the research-rich and metro-accessible community along River Road. Discovery District is intended to be the epicenter of academic, research and economic development encompassing the research park formerly known as MS Square and amenities like The Hotel of the University of Maryland. The Discovery District is a key piece of the University’s Greater College Park Initiative, a $2 billion public-private investment effort to rapidly revitalize the Baltimore Avenue corridor and UMD’s academic campus.

On January 12th, George Washington University hosted a ceremony and conference to commemorate the launch of its new Institute for Korean Studies. Ahn Ho-Young, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to the United States, and GW President Steven Knapp provided remarks. The Opening Ceremony was followed by a conference on “Korean Humanities and the Korean Diaspora” with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Institute, housed in the Elliott School, aims to strengthen and grow the existing Korean Studies Program at GW and promote the Korean humanities. (For more on Korean studies at GW, see International Relations.)

On January 27th, a launch party was held at Merrill Library Center B320, now home of the Gallaudet University Sandbox. Through collaboration with and support from Convo, a video relay services provider for the deaf community, the Sandbox will be a creative and collaborative space for students “to be innovative, explore and develop their creative ideas, apply and expand their skills, and collaborate with their peers on exciting projects.” As part of the initiative, Convo and Gallaudet will partner to provide guest speakers for workshops and lectures. The first official use of the space will be a special topics course taught this semester by Dr. Raja Kushalnagar, Gallaudet Information Technology Program director, and Gallaudet alumnus Joshua Shaffner (’00), Technology Vice President for Convo.

The Catholic University of America has partnered with the Initiative for a Competitive Inner City (ICCC) and the DC Chamber of Commerce to support a new program designed to identify and support qualified entrepreneurs in Washington, DC to participate in the ICCC program, a national effort that helps small businesses build capacity for sustainable growth in revenue, profitability and employment. Entrepreneurs participate in a comprehensive curriculum that combines targeted executive education with mentoring and matching them with potential capital sources and investors.

This spring the Georgetown University McDonough Office of Executive Education launched a new mentoring program that partners select Executive MBA (EMBA) students with C-suite level leaders from top global companies. The program is designed to develop and advance the leadership capabilities of participants while enriching their support and advisory networks. Ten
mentors kicked off the program from a variety of companies including Citigroup, Google, Intel, AT&T, and SAIC.

Gallaudet University has formed a new collaboration with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) to increase the number of qualified college graduates who apply for full-time employment and internship positions at the USDA. Gallaudet University President Roberta J. Cordano and AMS Administrator Eleanor Starmer celebrated the collaboration by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) at a ceremony on the Gallaudet campus in an event attended by officials and staff from AMS and members of the Gallaudet community. The MOU is designed to benefit both AMS and Gallaudet and provide a direct pathway for internship and job opportunities to Gallaudet students and alumni.

Two Consortium member schools have become founding members of the 30 belonging to the American Talent Initiative (ATL), an effort supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies; the Aspen Institute’s College Excellence Program; Ithaka S+R; and a growing alliance of colleges and universities dedicated to substantially expanding opportunities and access for low-and-moderate-income students. Member institutions must produce graduate rates of at least 70 percent over six years for these students. The two schools include:

- Georgetown University which is participating as a way of building on its longstanding commitment to make education accessible to students of all socioeconomic backgrounds. Georgetown has graduated more than 94 percent of its students over that time period; and

- The University of Maryland which has also joined. “As a land-grant flagship at a time when many people feel left behind, our mission of social mobility and educational opportunity is more critical than ever,” said UMD President Loh. “Our vigorous efforts to recruit the most talented, highest achievers, regardless of socioeconomic background, will contribute to this collaboration. Participating is an honor.”

The George Washington University Cancer Center marked its official opening with an event on December 7th. GW President Steven Knapp; GW Cancer Director Eduardo Sotomayor; National Cancer Acting Director Douglas R. Lowy; and Friends of Cancer Research Chairperson and Founder Ellen V. Sigal made remarks.

The University of Maryland will be a key partner in a new institute to advance U.S. leadership in pharmaceutical manufacturing that was announced by former U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker on December 16th. The National Institute for Innovation of Manufacturing Biopharmaceuticals (NIIMBL) will be the 11th Manufacturing USA Institute, and includes the University of Maryland College Park and the University of Maryland, Baltimore. A team of more than 150 companies, educational institutions, nonprofits, and state governments will operate NIIMBL under a newly formed nonprofit. “The University System is a tremendous asset in preparing our workforce for the jobs of the future and leading groundbreaking research,” said Maryland Governor Larry Hogan. “The cutting edge institute will bring together innovators from private industry, higher education, and government to tackle some of the world’s most pressing medical challenges.”
Supported by a gift of $2 million, Georgetown University and the Santander Group have established the Partnership on Social Economy. This interdisciplinary initiative between Georgetown and the international bank will support graduate-level research at Georgetown in the field of social economy and provide educational opportunities to both the university community and the general public. The field of social economy covers a variety of concepts including business, public policy, social sciences, law and other disciplines.

A new effort by the Georgetown-Howard Universities Center for Clinical and Translational Science (GHUCCTS) is designed to help those participating in research studies and their caregivers learn about the clinical research process, offer feedback on participant recruitment strategies and ultimately serve as ambassadors for research in their communities. The members of the GHUCCTS Advisory Board met for the first time on January 24th at Howard University Hospital where they started a conversation about the best ways to identify potential research participants. GHUCCTS already has a Community Advisory Board which includes representatives from local advocacy organizations who facilitate dialogue between GHUCCTS and the community. The new initiative will be populated by research participants and their caregivers.

On January 22nd, the George Washington Student Association launched GW Listens, an anonymous peer-support hotline run by students to provide immediate assistance to classmates in need. The Colonial Health Center provided training for student listeners on topics including active listening, interpersonal communication, risk assessment and multicultural competence. Prior to the launch, listeners completed an academic course and weekly training sessions that included practice calls.

Georgetown University, in partnership with DC Public Schools (DCPS), the DC Public Education Fund, and the Walton Family Foundation, have announced the first-ever charter school cohort of the McDonough School of Business Executive Master’s in Leadership (EML) program. Featuring a cohort model of 10 DC Public Schools (DCPS) and 10 DC charter school leaders, the DC Public School Leaders (DCPSL) EML program is designed to enhance the skills and capacity of school principals, while facilitating best-practice sharing across DCPS and charter schools. In the 11-month program, 10 DCPS and 10 charter school principals will take 14 courses and participate in three residency sprints. In the spring, the principals will partner with a peer from a different school sector to design solutions to overcome collective challenges.

**GOLD STARS**

The World Affairs Council of Washington, DC honored Marymount University with its Educator of the Year Award at the annual Global Education HONORS: Gala on March 29th. The award, which recognizes the university’s commitment to global education, was accepted by Marymount President Matthew D. Shank. “It is a tremendous honor for, and testament to, our dedicated faculty, staff and students who strive daily to achieve the values of our vision that include intellectual curiosity, service to others and global perspective,” President Shank said. Marymount has students from 76 countries with international students making up 13 percent of its student body.
For the fourth consecutive year, the *National Jurist* has named George Washington University Law Dean Blake D. Morant as one of the “Most Influential People in Legal Education” for 2016.

The International Dyslexia Association (IDA) awarded Georgetown University Medical Center (GUMC) faculty member and GUMC alumna Guinevere Eden (D. Phil) with its Norman Geschwind Award—recognizing her outstanding research in the neural basis of dyslexia and how the brain changes following intervention. The honor was bestowed during the IDA’s Annual International Conference in October where Eden delivered the Norman Geschwind Memorial Lecture titled “Brain Imaging Studies of Reading.” Eden is the director of GUMC’s Center for Study of Learning.

An American University professor who demonstrated how to use commercial 3D printers to create structures with active chemistry received an award from the scientific journal that published the research. *Science and Technology of Advanced Materials* awarded chemistry professor Matthew Hartings, the journal’s 2016 Altmetrics Award for attention the research garnered from mainstream and social media, according to a press release issued by the journal.

In his final Faculty Convocation, Georgetown College Dean Chester Gillis honored three beloved faculty members with the annual Dean’s Award for Excellence in Teaching and also took some time to reflect on the state of postsecondary education. Georgetown College is the oldest school within Georgetown University. In ceremonies that took place on January 30th, Professors Leslie Hinkson of the Sociology Department; Barbara Mujica of the Spanish and Portuguese Department; and Kathryn Olesko of the History Department were honored for their academic dedication. Professor Hinkson was singled out for her reputation as a teacher and role model. Professor Mujica was honored for her passion for teaching. And, Professor Olesko was recognized for her constant innovation during her 34 years at Georgetown where she taught more than 40 different courses.

Michael J. Feuer, Dean of George Washington University’s Graduate School of Education and Human Development (GSEHD) and Professor of Education Policy, was listed in the Edu-Scholar Public Influence Rankings, which spotlights 200 scholars who move ideas from academic journals into the national conversation. American Enterprise Institute Director of Education Policy Studies and Education Week blogger Frederick M. Hess used eight metrics to calculate how much university-based academics contributed to public discussions of education.

American University Assistant Professor of Psychology Nicole Caporino received the first-ever Anne Marie Albano Early Career Award for Integration of Science and Practice from the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies (ABCT) at the association’s 50th annual convention in New York. Caporino’s primary research interest is maximizing the efficacy of cognitive-behavioral therapy for anxiety and obsessive-compulsive disorders in children and adolescents. At AU, Caporino is working to open a child anxiety clinic on campus. It will become the university’s first child therapy facility for the general public.

Before leaving office, President Barack Obama named University of Maryland Assistant Professor Michael Rotkowitz, who holds a joint appointment at the A. James Clark School of Engineering Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and the UMD Institute for Systems Research, as one of 102 recipients of the Presidential Early Career...
Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE). This is the highest honor bestowed by the federal government on science and engineering professionals in the early stages of their independent research careers. Rotkowitz’s award was one of 19 that were nominated by the National Science Foundation. Rokowitz, is also affiliated with the university’s Applied Mathematics, Statistics, and Scientific Computation Program (AMSC). He focuses on computerized diagnosis and management of complex decentralized systems.

Lonnie Bunch, Founding Director of the National Museum of African American History and Culture, was acknowledged by Georgetown University for his role in the creation of the historic museum which, since opening this past fall, has already welcomed nearly one million visitors. On January 25th, he came to campus to receive an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters. “[Bunch] brought this vision of history—of remembrance—to life in the National Museum of African American History and Culture,” said Georgetown President John DeGioia, “where he first collected, then transformed an extraordinary group of artifacts into an urgent, powerful and profound illumination of American story.” Mr. Bunch has other connections to Consortium member schools including attendance at Howard University prior to transferring to American University where he received his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in American and African American History. Mr. Bunch has also taught at AU and George Washington University.

Peter Nemes, Assistant Professor of Chemistry at George Washington University, was named a 2016 DuPont Young Professor for his research developing ultrasensitive mass spectrometry technologies to determine how the proteome and metabolome contribute to the establishment of cell differences during early development. Insights from his research, in close collaboration with School of Medicine and Health Sciences professors Sally Moody and M. Chiara Manzini, are helping to improve understanding of cell and developmental biology and can ultimately improve health research. The DuPont Young Professor Program helps promising young and untenured research faculty begin their research careers through the establishment of a relationship with a member of the DuPont technical staff and the faculty member as part of the nomination process.

For the seventh straight year Marymount University has been named a Military Friendly School by Victory Media, which publishes G.I. Jobs Magazine. The 2017 list honors the top 20 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools serving students who are members of the U.S. military, veterans and their families.

Rita Colwell, a Distinguished University Professor in the University of Maryland Institute for Advanced Computer Studies (UMIACS) has been named a Fellow in the National Academy of Inventors. This is the latest of Professor Colwell’s many recognitions and awards. The National Academy of Inventors recognizes “academy inventors who have demonstrated a prolific spirit of innovation in creating or facilitating outstanding inventions that have made a tangible impact on quality of life, economic development, and the welfare of society.” Colwell’s many achievements and firsts include: a dozen U.S. patents, most involving computational biology; the founding of the company CosmosID, which uses next-generation DNA sequencing to advance new discoveries in microbiome research; and her leadership of numerous science organizations, including the National Science Foundation (NSF) from 1998-2004 as NSF’s first woman director.
In additional veterans’ news, Georgetown University has been recognized by two organizations for being a military-friendly institution that provides numerous services and opportunities for its student and alumni veterans:

- The Academy of United States Veterans’ Vettys Committee chose Georgetown to receive its Navy Seal LT. Michael P. Murphy Education Award, which was officially awarded during the Vettys Presidential Inaugural Ball and Awards ceremony on January 20th at the Hay-Adams Hotel in Washington, DC; and
- Georgetown earned an award for being a Top 10 Tier One Research Institute for outstanding commitment and programs for the nation’s veterans and their families from Victory Media.

**Spotlight: Presidents**

As featured in the last edition of this report, two Consortium members have announced the appointment of new presidents:

- Sylvia Mathews Burwell, most recently the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under former President Barack Obama, was named the 15th president of American University on January 26th. She succeeds Neil Kerwin as president and will assume her responsibilities on June 1st. Burwell, the first woman to hold the highest leadership position at AU, emerged as the top candidate in a very competitive national search. “Secretary Burwell’s success at HHS reflects three key abilities that will make her an excellent president for our university,” said Kiho Kim, Professor of Environmental Science at AU and a member of the Presidential Search Committee; and
- Thomas J. LeBlanc has been named George Washington University’s 17th president. He currently serves as the Executive Vice President, Provost and Professor of Computer Science and Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Miami. He is both the Chief Academic Officer and Chief Budget Officer, responsible for the university’s 11 schools and colleges, the library system, the Division of Student Affairs, the Division of Continuing and International Education and Undergraduate Education, Admissions and Financial Aid. Dr. LeBlanc will begin his service at GW in August 2017.

Gallaudet University President Roberta J. Cordano gave her second State of the University Address on January 31st, emphasizing the shared, collective contributions of the Gallaudet community by saying “our presidency is strong.” President Cordano’s address focused on six priorities: a bilingual framework; campus climate in regard to diversity, equity and inclusion; institutional leadership and planning; student success; academic vitality and strategic positioning; and strengthening and diversifying revenue streams. “It is important to always remember that our goal is to create innovators, change makers, and leaders. That has always been part of Gallaudet’s legacy since its inception, and it continues to be our mission . . . There is no place like Gallaudet and no place that generates the kind of people that we do here.”

George Washington University President Steven Knapp has been active on sustainability issues:
- On December 19th, he was among more than 100 leaders of higher education institutions to sign a letter calling on then-President-elect Trump and members of Congress to participate in international climate efforts; support climate research; and invest in climate solutions. The letter was coordinated by Second Nature, a nonprofit organization focused on helping colleges and universities expand their sustainable efforts; and

- On February 13th, he participated in a session at the Sustainability Summit on Climate Change hosted by Second Nature titled “Sector Alignment on Climate Action.” While there, he discussed leadership from the higher education sector and the unique connection GW has with local and federal players on climate change.

**Campus News**

Gallaudet University’s Technology Access Program (TAP) played a pivotal role in the December 15th landmark decision by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to transition to a new Internet-based, real-time text standard (RTT) to improve the accessibility of communications networks for people who are deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind, or have speech related disabilities. The FCC decision also mandated that RTT be compatible with new mobile devices starting at the end of December 2017, with the goal of RTT devices replacing outdated and obsolete TYYs within a few years. RTT allows users to instantly see letters, characters, and words as they are being typed, allowing for faster, simultaneous conversation.

Rankings are out and **Consortium of University** member schools are included:

- **American University** ranks No. 1 among medium sized schools on the Peace Corps 2017 Top Volunteer-Producing Colleges and Universities list. This is the third consecutive year that **AU** has ranked in the top five. In 2016 and 2015, the school held the No. 2 spot. **AU** also claimed the No. 1 spot nationwide among graduate schools, with 20 post-graduate alumni serving overseas. In 2016, the school ranked No. 5 on the same list. Fifty-four **AU** alumni currently volunteer worldwide. **George Washington University** and **Georgetown University** were also on the list;

- The **Robert H. Smith School of Business** at the University of Maryland has cracked the Top 10 of the US News & World Report’s new Best Online MBA Program rankings, placing 9th. The online MBA rankings were determined by weighing several pieces of information, with student engagement being the most importance (28 percent); followed by admissions selectivity (25 percent); peer reputation (25 percent); faculty credentials and training (11 percent); and student services and technology (11 percent).

- **George Washington University** was included in the Chronicle of Higher Education’s 2017 list of Top Producers of Fulbright Scholars;

- For the third consecutive year, **Marymount University**’s Master of Science degree in cybersecurity is ranked as one of the nation’s best by U.S. News and World Reports in its annual survey of “online graduate business, non-MBA” programs. **Marymount** maintains its 75th (tied) ranking from 2016, through the number of ranked schools has increased from 91 to 103; and

- For the ninth consecutive year, the **University of Maryland** has ranked in the top 10 among public universities for in-state value in Kiplinger’s Personal Finance’s list of the “Best College Values.” **UMD** ranks No. 8 for in-state and No. 10 for out-of-state value. In
addition, UMD ranks No. 2 in state value among Big Ten public universities. As part of Kiplinger’s evaluation, the company looked at admission rates, the percentage of students who return for sophomore year, the student faculty ratio and four-year graduation rates. Cost criteria include sticker price, financial aid and average debt at graduation.

Increased investments in student financial aid, new research, new academic programs, and direction for faculty salaries, technology, infrastructure and more was part of the Financial Plan approved by the Georgetown University Board of Directors in February. The Board also approved a new Master of Science in Environmental Metrology and Policy through the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences and a new Executive Masters in Clinical Quality, Safety and Leadership through the graduate school within the Department of Medicine. The four-year Plan, which covers fiscal years 2018-2021, includes the school’s largest investment ever in financial aid for the next fiscal year, with more than $180 million dollars set aside to help students pursue their educational goals in FY18. That amount increases to $194 million with more than $200 million planned for fiscal years 2018-21.

Howard University has entered a $144 million partnership with Rhode Island-based real estate group Corvias in a deal that will pay for renovations of two of the university’s largest residence halls. Corvias raised funds from investors that will go toward the renovation of Howard’s Plaza Towers, as well as the ongoing maintenance of Drew and Cook Residence Halls. The funding will also cover some of Howard’s debt and transaction costs and create a reserve for future capital expenses. The West Tower will reopen in fall 2017 with 825 renovated beds. The renovated East Tower, with 928 beds, will reopen in fall 2018.

The Model Secondary School for the Deaf on the campus of Gallaudet University (MSSD) celebrated its brand-new residence hall with an Open House event on January 26th. MSSD student leaders, cheerleaders, and alumni celebrated the newest DeafSpace friendly addition to the campus along with representatives from the Clerc Center, the university, the residence hall design and construction firms and guests. During the opening program, Gallaudet President Roberta J. Cordano acknowledged and thanked the University Board of Trustees, the U.S. Department of Education; retired U.S. Senator Tom Harkin; and past Gallaudet University President Dr. T. Alan Hurwitz for their support in securing funding for the building. The new building incorporates the principles of DeafSpace, with clear sight lines, bright and open spaces with natural light and generous windows and skylights everywhere to accommodate people’s ability to engage in signed conversation as they walk through the building.

GREEN CAMPUS

The Student Center at the University of the District of Columbia was certified on March 15th as a LEED Platinum Facility by the U.S. Green Building Council, becoming just the fourth notable structure in the District to receive this designation. Completed in 2016, the 96,000 square-foot building, which cost $63 million to construct, features sustainable design features throughout including a 14,000 square foot green roof; photovoltaic panels to harness solar energy; an expansive rain garden to assist with water management and pollutant filtration; exterior sun shades on windows and insulated glazing that reduce heat gain inside the building while providing natural light.
to reduce electricity use; toilets that flush with captured rain water; and locally sourced, reclaimed, and recycled materials.

On January 31st, George Washington University celebrated the LEED Gold Certification recently awarded to District House, the university’s newest residence hall which opened in the fall of 2016. Gold Certification is awarded to buildings deemed resource efficient by using less water and energy. GW President Steven Knapp; Executive Director of Sustainability Kathleen Merrigan and Director of the Office of Sustainability Meghan Chapple delivered remarks at the celebration. At the event, the university also launched “Charged Up,” a student design competition to create a solar charging station for small electronic devices. In related sustainability news, the American Institute of Architects selected the Milken Institute School of Public Health Building to receive its 2017 Institute Honor Award for Interior Architecture. The honor was awarded at the Institute’s 2017 conference in Orlando on April 27th.

American University won the 2016 District Sustainability Award in the People’s Choice category. The award, presented by the DC Department of Energy and Environment Director (DOEE) Tommy Wells, recognizes outstanding achievements and leadership in sustainability through the winner’s support of the goals of the DC Sustainability Plan and Sustainable DC, in areas such as energy and water conservation; renewable energy production; healthy food access; storm water management; green job development; and sustainable waste management. The People’s Choice Award was a new category this year, added to the District Sustainability Awards to allow the public to cast their votes for the most sustainable entity from a ballot of nominees.

In February, George Washington University celebrated one full year of operation of the Capital Partners Solar Project, a renewable energy project that has made GW 50 percent solar-powered. The project with Duke Energy Renewables—a partnership among GW, American University and GW Hospital—is seen as a major accomplishment not only in reducing the university’s carbon footprint but also as serving as an example for others, positioning GW as a leader in urban sustainability. “It really is a model for what universities and other institutions can do together to build capacity for alternative energy,” said GW President Steven Knapp.

Class Notes

The Spring Fellows at the Institute of Politics and Public Service at Georgetown University’s McCourt School of Public Policy have been named. The GU Politics Fellows will immerse themselves in life on campus; host a weekly discussion group on pressing political topics; and meet with students during office hours to talk about their careers or the political news of the day. The spring semester Fellows are:

- Marlon Marshall, former Director of State Campaigns and Political Engagement, Hillary for America;
- Grover Norquist, President, Americans for Tax Reform;
- Anna Palmer, Senior Washington Correspondent and co-author of “Playbook,” Politico;
- Jen Psaki, Director of Communications and Senior Advisor to former President Obama; and
Tony Sayegh, Executive Vice President, Jamestown Associates, Trump/Pence 2016 Media Consultant and Fox News Contributor.

**Academic Affairs**

Two new master’s programs at Georgetown University—one designed to give students tools to transform K-12 urban education and the other to provide key concepts in design, innovation, technology and analytics—will begin in the summer of 2017:

- The Master of Arts in Educational Transformation focuses on giving K-12 urban educators the skills and insights to tackle tough problems and promote opportunity and justice for children in underserved communities. The first year of the program, which begins in July 2017 and ends in June 2018, places students in field-based settings, working through real problems and real tasks; and

- The Master of Arts in Learning and Design has a mission to give students a deep foundation in the tools and theory of learning design, technology innovation, learning analytics, and higher education leadership. The program is being stewarded by Georgetown’s Center for New Designs in Learning and Scholarship (CNDLS). “Students will benefit from a program in applied innovation that marries theory with experience in internships, mentoring projects, and a yearlong Design Studio,” said program founding director Eddie Maloney. “These experiences will give all of our students a rich portfolio of real world work that can serve as the foundation on which they can build their careers.”

George Washington University’s Elliott School of International Affairs is the new home of the Initiative for Disaster Resilience and Humanitarian Affairs, an interdisciplinary effort combining education and research with on-the-ground training programs in developing countries to prepare local leaders to respond to and recover from disasters. The program will operate projects in more than a dozen countries to improve disaster resilience when nations face conflict, extreme weather, terrorism or other natural and man-made disasters.

University of Maryland students got a close-up look at the dangers of distracted driving. A representative from AT&T treated students in Professor Kenneth H. Beck’s class to a simulation of the sort of catastrophe that can occur when driving and texting are combined. By slipping on some virtual reality goggles, the class of 19 students could see what it feels like to be cruising along reading texts until you crash. Beck, a Professor of Behavioral and Community Health, invited AT&T in, along with other professionals working on the problem, as his students were preparing to launch research projects this term.

Enrollment in Georgetown University’s “Future44 Career Coaching,” class was particularly robust after the 2016 election and 2017 transition between the Obama and Trump administrations. That’s because the class is a customized course offered by the university specifically for White House appointees to help reflect, evaluate and prepare for career transition. Developed in collaboration with Georgetown’s Center for Continuing Professional Education faculty, the Future 44 course provides eight hours of seminar discussions with curriculum focused on four themes: Reflect and Assess; Create Your Future; Engage Others and Promote Yourself; and Take Action. Since the program rolled out in October 2016, nearly 300 participants have attended.
American University has met the challenge of setting up a new AU course on race and identity. School of Communication Associate Professor Angie Chuang, using a broad array of resources at her disposal including wisdom from AU faculty, staff, and student groups, created a multidisciplinary course for first-year students. The course touches on everything from slavery to the Civil Rights Movement to immigration to Native American rights and is designed to be a gateway for further study. Called American University Experience II or AUx2, the course was offered for the first time this semester and is part of the American University Experience pilot project. The goal is to have the course be mandatory for all incoming first-year and transfer students in 2018-2019.

Breaking into the venture capital (VC) business right out of an MBA program isn’t easy, so Georgetown University’ McDonough School of Business has added an MBA Venture Fellows program to its curriculum. The program is a collaboration between the MBA program and the Georgetown Entrepreneurship Initiative and provides full-time students interested in working in venture capital with a year-long appointment at a local VC firm that replaces the summer internship component of the MBA. During last year’s pilot program, four students worked for a VC firm and one had a position at an investment firm. All five have secured similar full-time VC or investment positions after graduation.

**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

On January 24th, the George Washington School of Business’s Korean Management Institute hosted a conference on the state of South Korea. At the conference, GW President Steven Knapp and GW alumnus Hee-Beom Lee, (MBA ’87), the President of the Organizing Committee for the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea, signed an agreement that committed GW to providing up to 50 student volunteers for the games. (For more on Korean studies at GW, see New Initiatives.)

During Winter Break, Georgetown University alumnae Elizabeth Sloss (NHS ’09; MBA ’17), an instructor of professional nursing practice, led a study abroad experience in South Africa for students within the Clinical Nurse Leader Program. Meghan Cotter (G’17) and Roula Saleem (G’71), who will be earning their Master’s degrees in May through the program, participated in the trip which allowed them to collaborate with nurses and other health professionals in the city of Durban. “The students spent a day in a primary health care clinic serving the Umlazi Township and accompanied nurses from Chatsworth Hospice on home visits,” Sloss said. “Clinical rotations at St. Mary’s Hospital included the in-patient casualty [emergency] department, surgical areas, and pediatrics wards.” The students observed that the experience was both “humbling” and “incredible.”

**P-20**

The national finals of the 2016 Siemens Competition in Math, Science and Technology for high school students was held at George Washington University December 1st through 5th. As part
of the competition, $500,000 in scholarships was awarded, including two top prizes of $100,000. On December 4th, GW President Steven Knapp attended the poster competition.

**Research and Tech**

Transportation experts at the University of Maryland have developed a mathematical model that can pinpoint the smallest bus fleet needed to serve a school district under any start and dismissal time schedule. Created to aid Howard County Public School System (HCPSS), the model uses data on route locations and schedules to group comparable routes into what transportation administrators call tours. The result is a suite of tours offering on-time pickup and drop off with the fewest possible buses. The pioneering tool, which is potentially applicable to most school busing systems throughout the country, also limits the distance traveled between routes without students on board. Ali Haghani UMD Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering and new PhD Ali Shafahi worked on the research.

**Georgetown University** Assistant Professor of Biology Shweta Bansal is supervising some very interesting research and researchers in her lab:

- **Georgetown** Ph.D. candidate Elizabeth Lee; then **Georgetown** undergraduate Anne Ewing (C’16) (now in medical school at the University of Louisville; and an NIH scientist paired with Dr. Bansal as part of a research team using big data to dig deeper into what causes the spread of flu. In a study published in *The Journal of Infectious Diseases*, Bansal and her research team determined through big data that flu transmission is reduced during the holidays because children, the primary spreaders of flu, aren’t in school. Other factors the researchers found that lead to flu transmission?--humidity which is more likely to spread flu than population density; and

- **Georgetown** graduate student Sandra Goldlust (G’17) who is seeking a degree in the Biohazard Threat Agents and Emerging Infectious Diseases, is looking at the geographic distribution of vaccination refusal. Vaccination refusal in clusters is much more dangerous because it can lead to a larger number of individuals who can spread disease to one another and cause a significant outbreak, according to Professor Bansal.

A December 6th edition of the *GW Battleground Poll* reported on a wide variety of information including:

- approval ratings for outgoing President Barak Obama and then-President Elect Donald J. Trump;
- issues voters think are the most important for the President-Elect to address; and
- voters’ thoughts on the likelihood of Congressional action on several topics.

The poll was widely covered by the media.

**Georgetown University** economist Billy Jack, along with Tavneet Suri from MIT’s Sloane School of Business, has found that expanding a mobile money system in Kenya has helped bring hundreds of thousands of households out of poverty, especially those headed by women. The study was published in a December issue of the journal *Science*. The research focused on M-PESA, a text message-based payments system, introduced in Kenya in 2007, that is now used by 96 percent of households there and has contributed to improved household financial resilience. The Bill &
Melinda Gates Foundation and the Kenyan organization Financial Sector Deepening funded the research.

Dr. Stacy Lopresti-Goodman, an Associate Professor of Psychology at Marymount University, conducted a study of the psychological impact of laboratory experiments on dogs—specifically dogs rescued by the Beagle Freedom Project. For her commitment to animal welfare advocacy, Lopresti-Goodman received the “Hero in Cognitive and Sentience Science and Education Award” from the Physician’s Committee for Responsible Medicine and the Green Neuroscience Laboratory. In addition to her work with the beagles, she has conducted observational research of primate behavior in sanctuary settings, which has helped advance understanding of cognition and sentience in non-human animals. She’s also done research on alternatives to the use of animals in psychology education.

The Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center (Georgetown Lombardi) has made two major findings regarding smoking and smoking cessation:

- Between 2008 and 2014, more than 53 million people in 88 countries stopped smoking due to tobacco control measures, which means that more than 22 million smoking-related deaths have been averted, say researchers from Georgetown Lombardi. The report findings were published in December by Tobacco Control as an update to the landmark study published by Georgetown Lombardi in 2013. “Our findings show the enormous and continuing potential to saving millions of lives by implementing tobacco control policies that have been proven to work,” said lead author David Levy, PhD, Professor of Oncology at Georgetown Lombardi. “These new findings can help those countries—more than half of the 196 total who have not yet undertaken life-saving tobacco control measures—better understand the powerful public health impact they offer;” and

- In related research, another study produced by the Georgetown Lombardi has found that telephone-based smoking cessation counseling can be effective at helping people to stop smoking. In the first successful randomized trial of its kind, researchers called smokers shortly after they underwent lung cancer screening to provide them with telephone-based smoking cessation counseling. Kathryn L. Taylor, PhD, a behavioral scientist and a Professor of Oncology at the Georgetown Lombardi found the period a “teachable moment—a time when smokers are thinking about their health and may be ready to make a change . . .” The study was published in the journal Lung Cancer. The work was so promising that its investigators have been funded through NIH to conduct a much larger study at five medical centers nationwide.

Researchers have discovered that a species of dinosaurs, Limusaurus Inextricabilis, lost its teeth in adolescence and did not grow another set as adults. The finding, published December 22nd in Current Biology, shows a radical change in anatomy during a lifespan and may help to explain why birds have beaks but no teeth. The research team studied 19 Limusaurus fossils, which indicate that the babies could have been carnivores or omnivores while the adults were herbivores, as they would have needed teeth to chew meat but not plants. The fossils also could help to show how theropods such as birds lost their teeth, initially through changes during their development from babies to adulthood. The research was performed by Shuo Wang of the Capital Normal University and George Washington University graduate student Josef Stiegler under the guidance of Xu Xing of the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology and James Clark, the
Ronald Weintraub Professor at GW’s Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, and funded by a National Science Foundation grant.

**Georgetown University** Chemistry Professor Toshiko Ichye is researching on a molecular level how much pressure is necessary to destroy dangerous microbes and how to make sure the microorganisms aren’t able to revive themselves. The work, funded recently through a $1 million NIH grant, could contribute to the fight against foodborne illness. Pascalization, the well-established process of applying large amounts of pressure to preserve food while killing dangerous microbes, is impacted by enzymes from pathogenic microbes. Dr. Ichye’s team is studying these microbes by using computer modeling to explore the varying the amounts of pressure and temperature the enzymes can withstand. Part of the research will investigate how microbes behave in extreme conditions on Earth—conditions that scientists expect would kill living things but seem to sustain certain forms of life.

A study from George Washington University’s Center for the Advanced Study of Human Paleobiology (CASHP) found that whereas brain size evolved at different rates for different species, especially during the evolution of Homo—the genus that includes humans—chewing teeth tended to evolve at more similar rates. The finding suggests that our brains and teeth did not evolve in lock step and were likely influenced by different ecological and behavioral factors. The research challenges the classically accepted view that reduction of tooth size in hominins is linked with having a larger brain. To conduct the research, Aida Gómez-Robles, lead author of the paper and a postdoctoral scientist at CASHP, and her colleagues analyzed eight different hominin species finding clear differences between tooth evolution and brain evolution. The research was published January 2nd in the *Proceedings of the National Academy Sciences*.

A Georgetown University psychiatrist, Dr. Elizabeth A. Hoge, has demonstrated that mindfulness meditation can result in lower stress response in people with generalized anxiety disorder—a condition that causes chronic and excessive worrying that interferes with people’s daily lives. A study based on her work was recently published in *Psychiatry Research* and showed that an eight-week mindfulness-based stress reduction course resulted in large drops in stress biomarkers during a laboratory stress task. In contrast, an eight-week Stress Management Education course, with general tips on the importance of good nutrition, sleep habits and other wellness topics resulted in a slight rise of such biomarkers. “Anxiety disorders affects an estimated 15 million Americans each year,” said Dr. Hoge, who is an Associate Professor in Georgetown University Medical Center’s Psychiatry Department. “Mindfulness meditation training is relatively inexpensive and doesn’t carry a stigma or have the side effects that many medications have.”

The George Washington University Libraries took steps to preserve the Obama Administration’s social media activities. The effort is part of the End of Term Presidential Harvest of 2016 (EOT), a collaborative volunteer project to preserve public U.S. government web sites. Partners include the Internet Archive; the Library of Congress; the U.S. Government Publishing Office; and libraries at the University of North Texas and Stanford University. The GW Libraries’ major innovation is open-source software called Social Feed Manager, developed as a prototype in 2012 and improved since 2014 with a grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. The software archives not only the text of a post on a social media platform like Twitter, Flickr, or Tumblr, but also metadata—time of posting, number of likes or retweets—associated with the post.
Dr. David Goerlitz, MD, Director of Operations for the Genomics and Epigenomics Shared Resource at the Georgetown University Medical Center, traveled to McMurdo’s Dry Valleys in Antarctica in December to examine an Earthly environment which he says is the “closest terrestrial analogue we have to what’s happening on other planets.” The goal of the trip was to use next-generation DNA sequencing to test theories of long-term cell survival in microbes that have somehow survived for thousands of years in one of the world’s most hostile environments. The group was the first to bring sequencing to the seventh continent.

The number of children in the United States regularly consuming food and beverages containing low-calorie sweeteners like aspartame, sucralose and saccharin has jumped by 200 percent since 1999, according to a new study by researchers at the George Washington University Milken Institute School of Public Health. A nationwide nutrition survey conducted by GW researchers found 25.1 percent of children regularly intake low-calorie sweeteners that some studies link to diabetes, obesity, and other health issues. That compared to only 8.7 percent of children reporting the same consumption habits in 1999. Allison Sylvetsky, Assistant Professor of Exercise and Nutrition Science, was lead author on the study, which was published in the Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics on January 10th. The study is the first to look at the consumption of low-calorie sweeteners in food, beverages, and packets using information from 2012, the most recent data for the U.S. population.

Georgetown College psychology professor Rebecca Ryan’s research paper on corporal punishment in America was published in the prestigious peer-reviewed journal Pediatrics. Ryan’s paper, titled “Socioeconomic Gaps in Parents’ Discipline Strategies from 1988 to 2011,” finds that American parents employed spanking or other forms of corporal punishment for children at a rapidly declining rate over the 1988-2011 period. Ryan acknowledges that the line between spanking and outright abuse can be a narrow one, but she cautions that seemingly appropriate disciplinary behavior can be linked to a higher likelihood of subsequent psychological problems. In addition, she notes that spanking rarely works to reduce unwanted child behaviors. The reasons for the decline in corporal punishment will require more research, but Ryan believes it may be linked to higher rates of education, a later age of first childbirth and parents listening to advice from doctors and social scientists.

Autism is not a single condition, but a spectrum of disorders that affect the brain’s ability to perceive and process information. Recent research suggests that too many connections in the brain could be at least partially responsible for the symptoms of autism, from communication deficits to unusual talents. New research from the University of Maryland suggests that this overload of connections begins early in mammalian development, when key neurons in a region of the brain known as the cerebral cortex begin to form their first circuits. By pinpointing where and when autism-related neural defects first emerge in mice, the study results could lead to a stronger understanding of autism in humans—including possible early intervention strategies. The researchers—UMD biology professor and senior study author Patrick Kanold and Daniel Nagode, a former UMD postdoctoral researcher and lead author of the study-- outline their findings in a research paper published in a January issue of the journal Cell Reports.

Igor Efimov, the Alisann and Terry Collins Professor of Biomedical Engineering at George Washington University, is spearheading the first global study into specific abnormal heart
rhythms that cause sudden cardiac deaths, a leading cause of death in the United States and beyond. A network of global research institutions funded by a grant from the Foundation Leducq will research who is most at risk of sudden cardiac death and develop therapies to prevent it. Researchers will focus on abnormal ventricular repolarization, a stage when the heart relaxes and complications often take place. GW will receive $899,863 over five years as part of the $5.9 million grant to the network. Dr. Efimov and other researchers will study genetic mutations and heart rhythm conditions like Long QT Syndrome that cause sudden cardiac deaths. Dr. Efimov is working with researchers from Johns Hopkins; Academic Medical Center in Amsterdam; Northwestern University; University of Auckland in New Zealand; and Université de Bordeaux in France to develop screening and treatments.

A University of Maryland-led study provides new evidence of decline in the effectiveness of genetically engineered traits widely used to protect corn crops from insects. The loss of effectiveness could damage U.S. corn production and spur increased use of potentially harmful insecticides. Based on two decades of field experiments by UMD researchers, the study concludes that damage to corn crops from a major insect pest called corn earworm is increasing. Authored by two scientists from the UMD Department of Entomology and one from Benzon Research, an independent contract research facility, the study documents the growing resistance of the earworm to protective “Bt” modifications widely used in corn and cotton crops. Lead author Galen Dively, UMD professor emeritus of entomology, predicts that corn earworm resistance to the Bt technology is likely to increase and spread. His team’s results have broad implications for profitable corn production, biotechnology, regulatory policies and sustainability of the use of Bt crop protection biotechnology.

Georgetown University psychology professor and cognitive neuroscientist Chandan Vaidya is using a $2 million grant from the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) to determine a more personalized approach to treating children who have behavioral regulation problems, regardless of the psychiatric diagnoses. Vaidya, professor and Chair of the Department of Psychology in Georgetown College, the oldest academic unit within Georgetown University, uses brain imaging to examine executive functioning in children and adults and those diagnosed with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), which are lifelong conditions. The professor says she and her collaborators from Children’s National Medical Center will use novel data-driven methods to identify subgroups with similar executive dysfunction.

On January 25th, George Washington University announced that in December, GW and Vector, a company that connects space startups and innovations with reliable and affordable space access, reached an agreement to license plasma thruster technology created by Professor of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering Michael Keidar and researchers in his lab. The technology allows researchers to propel miniature satellites, which are only 10 centimeters long on each side, into space and control them while there. The satellites are significantly less expensive than their larger counterparts and are made from common materials. Vector will develop the inch-long thruster for commercial space use, and GW will continue to develop the next generation of the technology. Dr. Keidar has been selected to receive the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics 2017 Engineer of the Year Award for his significant contributions to “fundamentals and applications of electric propulsion, particularly micro-propulsion for small satellites.”
Georgetown University researchers have found that sunlight, through a mechanism separate from vitamin D production, energizes T cells that play a central role in human immunity. Their findings, published in December in *Scientific Reports*, suggest how the skin, the body’s largest organ, stays alert to the many microbes that can nest there—some related to sunlight. The study’s senior investigator, Gerald Ahern, PhD, Associate Professor of Georgetown’s Department of Pharmacology and Physiology, said that the research found that low levels of blue light found in sun rays makes T cells move faster—marking the first reported human cell responding to sunlight by speeding up its pace.

A team of researchers at the University of Maryland Energy Research Center and A. James Clark School of Engineering have announced a transformative development in the race to produce batteries that are at once safe, powerful and affordable. The researchers have made a key advance by inserting a layer of ultra-thin aluminum oxide between lithium electrodes and a solid non-flammable ceramic electrolyte known as garnet. Prior to this advance, there had been little success in developing high-performance, garnet-based solid-state batteries, because the high impedance, more commonly called resistance, between the garnet electrolyte and electrode materials limited the flow of energy or current, dramatically decreasing the battery’s ability to charge and discharge. A new paper describing the research was published online in December in the journal *Nature Materials*.

Pasha Mahdavi, an Assistant Professor at Georgetown University’s McCourt School of Public Policy, worked with Michael Ross and Chad Hazlett of UCLA to conduct a four-year study of fossil fuel policies from 2003 to 2015 in 157 countries. The paper they produced, published in *Nature Energy*, focused on one question—whether governments were taxing or subsidizing the price of gasoline. The short answer—157 countries are collectively failing to discourage fossil fuel consumption via their tax policies. Professor Mahdavi called the finding “surprising and worrisome” in particular in light of global efforts to deal with climate change.

Researchers from the University of Maryland have utilized satellite imagery to demonstrate that forest wildlands—forests least affected by human activity—are steadily shrinking. Using the same technology, they also pinpoint ways to help preserve these landscapes that are critically important to the health of the planet. Led by Associate Professor Peter Potapov from the UMD Department of Geographical Sciences, the research team used Landsat satellite images from 2000 and 2013 to map intact forest landscapes (IFL) around the globe. Their work is featured in a January 13th publication of *Science Advances*.

Georgetown University McCourt School professor Adriana Kugler is planning to study the effect of unemployment insurance benefits on match quality and job mobility funded by a grant from the Washington Center for Equitable Growth. Along with Georgetown PhD candidate Ammar Farooq, the study will reveal whether unemployment insurance benefit extensions improve job match quality. It is hoped that the study will examine the role that unemployment insurance plays in improving worker outcomes and overall macroeconomic performance.

**ON THE ROAD**
Georgetown University Medical Center Association Professor of Neurology Rochelle Tractenberg, Ph.D. traveled to Boston to attend the AAAS Annual Meeting in February to discuss how to conduct responsible research and its relevance for all statisticians, data analysts and data scientists. Dr. Tractenberg identifies most researcher’s simplistic notion of statistics—she calls them “laymen when it comes to statistics”—as a main culprit in the problem of scientists being unable to reproduce other scientists’ experiments or even their own. She noted that several elements of a study can lead to irreproducible results, including incorrect analysis; improper interpretation of data; cherry picking results; or failing to transparently report the number of analyses as they are done. Dr. Tractenberg chairs the National Committee on Professional Ethics of the American Statistical Association which resulted in her appearance at the conference. Her presentation was entitled “How Ethical Science Supports Ethical Policy: Disciplinary Perspectives.”

South by Southwest, the famous gathering for music and technology in Austin, TX, featured a panel entitled “A New Era for College Towns,” highlighting the work that University of Maryland and its host College Park, MD have done to make College Park both more attractive for students and potential residents alike. Ken Ulman, President of Marigrace Strategies, was hired by the university to head these efforts.

On the Book Shelf

African Americans have both benefitted and suffered from fast food’s infiltration into their communities since the late 1960’s, according to research by Georgetown University History Professor Marcia Chatelain. Professor Chatelain just received a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to pursue a book project called From Sit-In to Drive-Thru: Black America in the Age of Fast Food. The book will trace how McDonalds’ unprecedented market saturation, particularly in African American communities, reflects shifts in the political, economic and social life of African Americans after the murder of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1968.

Georgetown University Professor Timothy Jorgensen’s debut book, Strange Glow: The Story of Radiation has received rave reviews and has landed on several “Best Books of 2016” lists including Smithsonian Magazine’s list. Various reviewers from sources as varied as Science Magazine and the Washington Post have called Professor Jorgensen a “scientist with a knack for narrative storytelling” and said that his book is a “cracking good read”.

Georgetown College Professor Rachel Burr has seen the work she recently edited--Media Exposure During Infancy and Early Childhood—released and she insists that, despite its length of 303 pages, it is NOT a text book. Dr. Burr and her co-editor, Deborah Nichols Linebarger from Purdue University, intentionally designed the book to appeal to people beyond university walls by weaving commentaries from relevant practitioners among the chapters of academic writing. Among the practitioners quoted are Angela Santemero, the creator of the popular kids’ program Blue’s Clues, as well as media industry researchers, childhood educators, staffers from PBS and Sesame Street.

Campus Support
**Gallaudet University** received a major gift to support documentary work and study and as a result renamed its Center for Deaf Documentary Studies the Drs. John S. & Betty J. Schuchman Deaf Documentary Center to reflect the two PhD’s’ generosity in establishing an endowed fund to support documentary education, production and presentation. Stan Schuchman is a professor emeritus, a former Vice President of Academic Affairs and Provost, a researcher and an internationally known historian. He devoted much of his working career to documenting deaf history, including a seminal work on how deaf characters are portrayed in film media described in the 1988 book *Hollywood Speaks: Deafness in the Film Entertainment Industry* and a 2012 book on Deaf Holocaust survivors which he co-edited entitled *Deaf People in Hitler’s Europe*. Throughout his research, Dr. John Schuchman has considered the documented stories of deaf people as key to any study, not just history, but all disciplines. His work paved the way for historians doing documentary work in sign languages—in his case, multiple languages.

**George Washington University** alumnus Ali Kolaghassi (BBA ’90) and his wife Lama, have made a philanthropic commitment to establish the Ali and Lama Kolaghassi Scholarship Fund. The endowed fund will provide a full undergraduate scholarship for a graduate of King’s Academy, an independent, co-educational boarding and day school in Madaba, Jordan. The scholarship will cover the cost for one student at a time to attend GW for up to four years, including tuition, room and board, and other associated expenses. Mr. Kolaghassi grew up in Kuwait and graduated from GW with a degree in business. The Kolaghass’ daughter is a sophomore at GW.

A recent $1.5 million grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation will help **Georgetown University** carry out its commitment to produce scholarship that helps the nation better understand and address its legacies of slavery, racism and discrimination. The five-year Mellon grant will assist the university in establishing a center for racial justice, hiring faculty experts in the field, supporting postdoctoral and graduate fellows and funding a series of visiting lecturers. The grant comes after the release this past September of a report containing recommendations from the university’s Working Group on Slavery, Memory and Reconciliation (SMR), which was charged with reflecting on Georgetown’s historic involvement in the institution of slavery.

Billionaire Charles Koch is donating $25.6 million to establish a research institute in the District of Columbia for Historically Black Colleges to examine education, criminal justice and entrepreneurship in “fragile communities” dealing with crime and other problems. The new center, to be called the Center for Advancing Opportunity, will be affiliated with the Thurgood Marshall College Fund and will grant scholarships, produce academic forums and work with Gallup to survey impacted communities on issues of interest. The Marshall Fund supports many Historically Black Universities around the country and region, including **Howard University**, the **University of the District of Columbia**, Bowie State University and Morgan State University. This is Koch’s second major donation in the region.

**Campus Movers and Shakers**

The **University of Maryland** has appointed Julie Lenzer as Associate Vice President for Economic Development. Lenzer will also serve as Director of UM Ventures—College Park in the **UM Division of Research**. Lenzer is an award-winning software entrepreneur, ecosystem builder, investor and educator with a foundation in innovation-based economic development. She
joins **UMD** after a two-year appointment at the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration where she was the Director of the Office of Innovation and Entrepreneurship and Senior Advisor to U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker. “Julie’s remarkable experience and connections will ignite our growing innovation ecosystem,” said **UMD President Wallace Loh.** “She has launched her own enterprises and worked in and out of government to build innovation networks. She has done it all and will do it here.”

Susan Rice, former US Ambassador to the United Nations and President Barack Obama’s national security adviser, has joined **American University** as a Distinguished Visiting Research Fellow in the **School of International Services.**

**George Washington University** announced that Aristide J. Collins, Jr., Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations and Secretary of the University, will serve as Chair of a **GW** working group that will coordinate the transition for the incoming president. Mr. Collins will return full time to the Board of Trustees office as Vice President and Secretary to oversee the transition. Matthew R. Manfra, Associate Vice President for Alumni Relations, will serve as Interim Vice President for the Division of Development and Alumni Relations.

Before leaving office, President Obama appointed Tawara D. Goode, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at **Georgetown University’s Center for Child and Human Development,** to the President’s Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities (PCPID). The Committee advises the President on policies and initiatives that support the inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities in all aspects of community life. Professor Goode’s two-year term on the Committee began in November 2016.

**Marymount University** has named Dr. William J. Ehmann as its new Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and Enrollment Management. Dr. Ehmann has worked at several public and private universities, both as a tenured professor of biology and an administrator. He has also served as Interim Associate Provost at Mercy College in Dobbs Ferry, New York since July, after having served as Associate Provost from 2009-2012. Ehmann will assume the post at **Marymount** on June 1st.

In January, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) announced a new plan to boost exports, calling for a dedicated and independent regional organization to help businesses find overseas markets for their products and services. The regionally supported “World Trade Center” would work with companies on research, technical assistance and with governments to expand the DC region’s access to new international customers. The plan is a result of a nearly yearlong effort led by Bob Sweeney, Managing Director of the Global Cities Initiative at COG, with support from the Greater Washington Board of Trade and the **Consortium of Universities.** Mr. Sweeney is also the Director of Strategic Partnerships at **American University Kogod School of Business.** The work is the direct result of Washington, DC being named a Global City.

The **University of the District of Columbia (UDC)** has appointed Dr. Tony D. Johnson Dean of Workforce Development and Lifelong Learning at **UDC’s Community College.** Dr. Johnson will be responsible for overseeing the planning and implementation of workforce development programs, budgeting and finance, public relations and coalition building for five community
campuses. The programs slated for his leadership are designed to reduce unemployment and underemployment in the District by providing job training for careers in new industries. Dr. Johnson previously taught in the College of Education and School of Arts & Sciences at Florida State University, Florida A&M University, Barry University and George Washington University. He also previously administered programs in Florida, Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, DC.

Gallaudet University named Todd Higgins its new Director of the Gallaudet University Regional Center (GURC)-East Region, hosted at Northern Essex Community College (NECC), with campuses in Haverhill and Lawrence, MA. Higgins most recently served as a Deaf Community Advisor at the University of Massachusetts Medical School and has extensive experience working with individuals with a wide spectrum of disabilities. He also spent a decade working as a Deaf and Hard of Hearing Specialist and Outreach Coordinator at San Francisco State University, and prior to that was a Deaf and Hard of Hearing Consultant for the San Francisco Mayor’s Office on Disability. He has been an advocate for accessibility and championed the rights of people with disabilities for 20 years.

The George Washington University Museum and The Textile Museum appointed Maria Fusco as Chief Conservator and the Margaret Wing Dodge Chair in Conservation. In this capacity, she will oversee the care and maintenance of The Textile Museum’s 20,000-piece collections. Elizabeth Shaeffer also joined the museum as Associate Conservator. These two appointments cap significant advances in the museum’s esteemed conservation program.

Dr. Marianne Ward-Perdoza has been named Dean of Marymount University’s School of Business Administration. Ward-Perdoza has been a longtime faculty member and administrator at Loyola University Maryland. She will begin her duties July 1st.

Joel Teitelbaum, Associate Professor and Director of the Hirsh Health Law and Policy Program at George Washington University, was one of 13 national experts appointed to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary’s Advisory Committee on National Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Objectives for 2030. Over the next two years, the committee will examine current scientific evidence and submit recommendations to the Secretary of HHS with rationales to inform the development and implementation of the nation’s disease prevention and health promotion objectives for Health People 2030. Along with public and federal agency comments, these recommendations will be used by HHS to develop the next iteration of the Healthy People Initiative.

Joshua Johnson has replaced Diane Rehm, a beloved local radio host who retired in December from WAMU, American University’s public broadcasting radio station. Mr. Johnson’s new show, 1A, a reference to the front page of a newspaper, is aired in Ms. Rehm’s old time slot. Ms. Rehm broadcast in that time slot for 37 years, airing on 198 stations and reaching 2.8 million listeners per week. Mr. Johnson, a 36-year-old former drive-time host in San Francisco, has already grown the show’s audience since it started with less predicted shrinkage from the Rehm show than feared.

Laura Anderko, PhD, RN, the Robert and Kathleen Scanlon Chair in Values Based Health Care at Georgetown University has joined the Board of Directors for the organization Health Care Without Harm. The organization is focused on transforming health care worldwide so that it reduces its environmental footprint, becomes a community anchor for sustainability, and a leader in
the global movement for environmental health and justice. Professor Anderko was previously recognized with the White House Champion of Change Award for her work on climate change and public health.

**George Washington University’s** women’s basketball coach Jennifer Rizzotti joined then Vice President Joe Biden and numerous activists in an event designed to highlight the fight against campus sexual assault. The White House’s “It’s On Us Summit on January 5th was part of a White House-facilitated national campaign against sexual assault on campus, emphasizing collective responsibility and an end to victim-blame. Ms. Rizzotti participated in a breakout panel on student athletes and campus culture.

**Big Men (and Women) on Campus**

The day after her performance at the Peace Ball in January, Solange Knowles stopped by Sankofa Video Books & Café, a bookstore on Georgia Avenue, to meet with her local fans and buy them 250 books. She originally wanted to plan a speaking event at Howard University, but because the university was closed for the Inauguration, she worked with the bookstore to schedule the event there. She announced the giveaway on her Instagram just a few hours before it started attracting hundreds of people, mostly from Howard. Among the books she bought for attendees where *Black Skin, White Mask*, by Frantz Fanon; *The Autobiography of Malcolm X* and *Americanah* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie and anything by James Baldwin.

Robert D. Manfred Jr., Commissioner of Baseball, spoke about the business and politics of baseball at a George Washington University School of Business event on campus on December 5th. A panel of baseball reporters joined Mark Hyman, Assistant Teaching Professor of Management and Tourism Studies, who moderated a discussion about collective bargaining, the 2017 World Baseball Classic, and Major League Baseball’s global strategy.

Vice President Joe Biden visited Georgetown University on December 5th and warned that the policies that caused the recession eight years ago are the same ones being proposed today by the (then) incoming Trump Administration. He added that policies cutting the top income tax rate, deregulation of the financial industry and other measures caused what came to be known as the Great Recession of 2008. On a personal note, Vice President Biden also noted that his son, Hunter (C’92), had graduated from Georgetown. Vice President Biden added that it was a request to speak at the Jesuit Volunteer Corps retreat at Georgetown years before that helped him realize that his own Catholic faith and “all the great faiths” led him to abhor the abuse of power.

Ambassador Aung Lynn, the Ambassador of Myanmar to the United States, spoke at George Washington University’s Elliott School of International Affairs on December 12th. The Ambassador discussed “the New Myanmar,” focusing on political and economic developments since the installation of the new government following parliamentary elections last November. Reuben Brigety, Dean of the Elliott School, and Linda Yarr, Director of the Elliott School’s Partnerships for International Strategies in Asia, made remarks.

A two-day meeting of the MyVA Advisory Committee was held at Georgetown University in January and featured an opening address by Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert A. McDonald and
Deputy Secretary Sloan Gibson. The two speakers, themselves veterans, outlined several accomplishments of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs since they began in their leadership roles in 2014, as well as identified directions for the future. **Georgetown’s School of Nursing & Health Studies** co-hosted the meeting along with the VA.

**George Washington University** hosted three live prime-time CNN town halls in Jack Morton Auditorium on campus:

- On January 9th, Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT), sat down with CNN’s Chris Cuomo, discussing major issues facing the nation and the Democratic strategy for the Trump administration;
- On January 12th, House Speaker Paul Ryan discussed the House Republican’s “Better Way” agenda for the new administration and the GOP’s strategy for the first 100 days of Trump’s presidency with CNN’s Jake Tapper; and
- On February 7th, CNN Anchor Jake Tapper and Chief Political Correspondent and GW alumnus Dana Bash (BA ’93), moderated a live prime-time CNN Town Hall Debate with Senator Sanders and Ted Cruz (R-TX), on the future of the Affordable Care Act. Speakers Ryan and Sens. Sanders and Cruz answered questions from audience members.

Anthony Fauci, MD, Director of the National Institute for Allergy and Infectious Disease (NIAID), addressed the conference entitled “Pandemic Preparedness in the Next US Presidential Administration” which was held at **Georgetown University** on January 10th. Students and global health experts from academia, government and advocacy met to hear Director Fauci urge the incoming Trump Administration to plan for a pandemic as soon as possible since all five presidents Director Fauci has worked for had faced pandemics early in their presidencies. The event was organized by the **Center for Global Health Science and Security** at **Georgetown University Medical Center** in partnership with the Harvard Global Health Institute.

On January 17th, Chef and ThinkFoodGroup restauranteur José Andrés participated in an interview with Kathleen Merrigan, Executive Director of Sustainability at **George Washington University**, as part of “The Sustainable Plate” class. Following the interview, Chef Andrés joined Dr. Merrigan; Rick Leach, President and CEO of World Food Program USA; Mary Ellsberg, Director of the **GW Global Women’s Institute**; and Radha Muthiah, CEO of the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves to discuss how to clean kitchen cookstoves to improve people’s lives particularly the 1.3 billion people globally who do not have access to electricity, let alone cook stoves.

In her first act as Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos visited **Howard University** to meet with **Howard President Wayne A. I. Frederick** and other university leaders. During her visit, Secretary DeVos spoke of the importance of **Howard University** specifically and HBCU’s in general. “**Howard University** plays a unique and valuable role in the fabric of our higher education system, and I am honored to help celebrate its 150th anniversary,” she said. In an official statement, **President Frederick** said “[Howard University] has a long-standing, successful relationship with the Department of Education and I look forward to advancing this relationship under the Secretary’s leadership.”
Former Washington Redskins wide receiver Antwaan Randle El discussed ethical issues impacting intercollegiate and professional sports on February 6th at Marymount University. The event was part of Marymount’s Ethics Week. “Football is a violent sport and society often turns a blind eye to that aspect of it,” said Brian Doyle, Director of Marymount’s Center for Ethical Concern, who moderated the event. “He (Randle El) has a unique perspective on what extended play at that level can have on an athlete’s physical and emotional life.”

On Friday, February 10th, Mrs. Akie Abe, wife of the Prime Mister of Japan, visited Gallaudet University for the second time. She previously visited in 2007 and recently sought an encore while she was in Washington. As part of her campus visit, she received a tour of the new biology lab in the Hall Memorial Building, designed with DeafSpace principles. Afterwards, she participated in a roundtable discussion with Gallaudet President Roberta J. Cordano; Visual Language and Visual Learning (VL2) Co-Principal Investigator Dr. Laura-Ann Petitto; Executive Director of Campus Design and Construction Hansel Bauman; Associate Professor of Psychology Dr. Caroline Kobek-Pezzarossi; and graduate student Izumi Takizawa. Afterwards, Mrs. Abe showed the group how to make origami paper cranes, which are a symbol of peace, and exchanged gifts.

In honor of Black History Month, the Congressional Black Conference (CBC) hosted a reception at Georgetown Law to honor its newest members. The February 15th event was hosted by Georgetown’s Institute of International Economic Law (IIFL) and Financial Services Professionals. Among those in attendance—Representative Anthony Brown (D-MD); Representative Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-Del); Representative Val Demings (D-FL); Representative Gregory Meeks (D-NY); and Representative Stacey Plaskett (D-VI), a graduate of Georgetown’s School of Foreign Service.

NPR’s Nina Totenberg and U.S. Supreme Court Ruth Bader Ginsburg discussed the justice’s new book, My Own Words, in an event at George Washington University sponsored by the Newseum on February 23rd.

**SPOTLIGHT: STUDENTS**

Consortium member students were directly impacted by the first Executive Order issued by President Trump in February against seven majority Muslim countries:

- Najwa Elyagi, a Libyan national attending George Mason University, was on a flight to Turkey when the order was issued. Of the 82 GMU foreign students from the affected countries, Ms. Elyagi was the only one outside the country when the order was issued. After being allowed to return to the U.S. a week later when the Order was stayed, she said she felt “loved” when she returned to the airport and saw the crowds protesting the Order. Although, she said, the U.S. no longer “feels like home;” and

- Taima Aliriano was one of dozens of Yemeni students who was invited to the U.S. through a State Department-sponsored exchange program nearly three years ago. When a civil war broke out in Yemen, the students couldn’t return so they continued in the U.S., some getting student visas and attending college. Ms. Aliriano is one of those students, six of whom are attending Northern Virginia Community College. All the students have received letters from the State Department indicating they will be “on their own” in a few
weeks. Several of the students, some with the assistance of program advisors, have set up “Go Fund Me” pages in an effort to replace the State Department funds so they can finish their educations. (For more on the president’s Executive Order, see “Lead Stories.”)

Four Georgetown University students have been selected for prestigious international scholarships including:

- Three students who were selected as 2017 Marshall Scholars given to science and engineering students who are pursuing postdoctoral research at a British university or research institute including:
  - Devika Ranjan (SFS’17), a cultural and politics major, who wants to develop a traveling theater that serves as a sanctuary for refugees and other displaced people;
  - Seamus Caragher (C’16), a recent neurobiology graduate, whose research focuses on understanding the role of cancer stem cells in the most common and aggressive cancer that begins in the brain and funding targets for new therapies; and
  - Erika Raven, a PhD candidate in the Interdisciplinary Program in Neuroscience, who is researching how dietary iron contributes to structural and functional changes in the brain during adolescence; and
- Matthew Hinson (SFS’17), who was selected for a Rangel Fellowship, founded by the U.S. Department of State and managed by Howard University to support outstanding individuals pursuing careers as officers in the State Department. Hinson will receive a $95,000 grant over two years which he plans to use for a two-year master’s degree program in security studies or international affairs as a precursor to a career in the Foreign Service.

The 2017 George Washington University School of Engineering and Applied Science (SEAS) Student Research and Developing Showcase was held at GW’s Science and Engineering Hall on February 22nd. SEAS students competed for over $48,000 in prize money.

University of Maryland senior Elfadil Osman has been named a 2017 Gates Cambridge Scholar. The Gates Cambridge Scholarship, which allows students outside of the United Kingdom to pursue graduate study at the University of Cambridge, is considered one of the most prestigious academic awards available to college graduates. Osman is the second UMD Gates Cambridge Scholar, following in the footsteps of Krzysztof Franaszek (BS biological sciences; BA ’13 economics). Osman, who is majoring in biological sciences with a specialization in physiology and neurobiology and minoring in creative writing, plans to use the scholarship toward a PhD in biochemistry. His long-term plans include pursuing an academic career studying infectious disease.

Georgetown University students are busy making post-graduation plans:

- Sydney Allain-Stockton (NHS’17), who after finishing her population health-focused internship at the National Academy of Medicine as part of her last semester at Georgetown, plans to move to Ann Arbor, MI to work for Google. Allain-Stockton will graduate with a degree in health care management and policy from the School of Nursing & Health Studies. As a student, she was active on campus--serving as the co-president of the Georgetown Admissions Ambassador Program (CAAP) and Georgetown Aspiring Minority Business Leaders & Entrepreneurs (GAMBLE). At Google, she will join the Small Business Sales team as an Associate for Account Strategy;
Misty Li, a senior at the McDonough School of Business, who is taking Chinese language courses alongside her double major in finance and international business, is planning to move to Hong Kong after graduation to take a position with Morgan Stanley. Li has taken full advantage of opportunities presented by Georgetown including a study abroad semester in Copenhagen, Denmark; and working on a Global Business Experience consulting project in Barcelona, Spain. Her position with Morgan Stanley is a direct result of her two summer internships with the company’s New York City office; and

Claire Reardon has made plans to teach preschool in Indianapolis with Teach for America following graduation. In the meantime, she is exploring her passion for education and international development as a student in Georgetown’s Walsh School of Foreign Service majoring in Culture and Politics with a focus on Inequality in Education. She has followed her interest as a volunteer with Hilltop Microfinance Initiative and as a classroom assistant in a DC Community Center preschool program. She also spent a summer in Panama teaching English in a rural elementary school and the next summer moved to Bogota, Columbia to work on a documentary on the role of women in building peace in their communities with two other Georgetown students.

The Gallaudet University Innovation and Entrepreneurship Initiative (GIEI) held its second business pitch competition on February 10th. Five student teams pitched their business proposals to a panel of judges. Gallaudet Entrepreneur-in-Residence, alumnus Russell Stein (’94), co-founder and co-owner of the all-deaf staffed Mozzeria Pizza Restaurant located in San Francisco, served as Master of Ceremonies.

Georgetown University student Julia Marsan (C’17) is the latest member of the Georgetown community to appear on the popular quiz show Jeopardy! She competed in the show’s College Championship in February. Jim Coury (F’15) was the last Georgetown University student who won the $100,000 competition in 2015. Julia won the first round in which she participated.

Natasha Baker, 3L at George Washington University Law, has received an opportunity to pursue her passion in juvenile justice following graduation as a 2017-2019 Skadden Fellow. Described as a “Legal Peace Corps,” the Fellowship was established almost 30 years ago for law students who wish to pursue public interest work. All Fellows are provided a salary and benefits as they complete work over the course of two years. Ms. Baker is the third student in the history of GW Law to be awarded the prestigious Fellowship.

A team of University of Maryland students took home a second-place win and a $5,000 prize in a competition to come up with a technology strategy to secure digital voting systems in the future. The competition was hosted by the global security company Kaspersky Lab. The goal for the team was to create a secure voting solution using blockchain technology, which involves a database that maintains a list of ordered records or “blocks” that are timestamped and cannot be altered after recording. The UMD team competed against 18 others from colleges across the US and UK.

In December, the Georgetown Law Student Bar Association received the 2016 Student Bar Association Award from the American Bar Association’s (ABA) Law Student Division. Law schools from around the nation compete for the award, which recognizes the efforts of an SBA organization to “create a better environment for law students and a more positive image of the legal profession.”
Georgetown Law SBA was awarded the top prize during the 2016 ABA Annual Meeting in San Francisco, CA.

Gallaudet University alumna, doctoral student and adjunct instructor Kallissa Bailey (’14) won the first place $1,500 prize with her proposal for TopROPE, an exercise program in partnership with Gallaudet that would include scheduling exercise by app as well as different ways to exercise and release stress.

The founder of a Bolivian nonprofit dedicated to creating affordable housing for low income citizens is also a student in the Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies degree completion program at Georgetown’s School of Continuing Studies (SCS). Carlos Aramay grew up in La Paz and Santa Cruz, Bolivia in a family that emphasized the importance of helping others. The nonprofit he started with his brother—named CINPROBOL (roughly translated as Center of Investment Pro-Bolivia)—was designed to help low-income people, who were priced out of the private sector housing market. The brothers’ charity has partnerships with American housing companies, Bolivian high schools and universities and an American nonprofit. Its latest goal is to build 60 homes.

Georgetown University students are taking full advantage of international study through a variety of options:

- Junior Patrick Rispoli (NHS’18), who is studying health care management and policy at the School of Nursing & Health Studies, had the opportunity during the fall semester to study abroad at the University of Salamanca in Spain, an experience he said helped him understand other cultures and understand his own culture from a different perspective; and

- Lillian Medhus (G’17), who as a student in the Nurse-Midwifery/Women’s Health Nurse Practitioner Program at the School of Nursing and Health Studies, traveled to Greece over Winter Break to provide care to women who are refugees. She worked with the organization Nurture Project International supporting diaper and food distribution; manned the baby hammam, a safe, clean place for mothers to bathe their children in private; provided other services to new babies; and offered prenatal care to expecting mothers.

Other Georgetown students are working on important projects at home including:

- Human Science major Christina Johnson (NHS’17) who completed a community health needs assessment focused on mental health and youth in the District of Columbia. Working together with Joan Burggraf Riley (NHS’76; G’97), MS, MSN, FNP-BC, FAAN, Assistant Dean for Educational Innovation, Johnson created a needs assessment designed to identify risk factors and key contributors to mental health issues facing DC youth; and

- Daniela Fernandez (C’17), who founded Sustainable Oceans Alliance (SOA) on Georgetown’s campus in 2014. SOA is an organization founded to engage millennials in ocean conservation. As SOA founder and CEO, Fernandez garnered national attention, receiving the Peter Benchley Ocean Award and landed on the Glamour magazine list of Top 10 College Women of the Year. Since 2014, SOA Chapters have spread to Columbia University, George Washington University, American University, Stanford University, Wesleyan University and Centre College.
University of Maryland students and faculty met with Annapolis City and Anne Arundel County officials in early March to present findings from 14 projects, the first results of a yearlong partnership between the City of Annapolis, Anne Arundel County and UMD’s Partnership for Action Learning in Sustainability (PALS) program. The projects, which stem from social, economic and environmental sustainability priorities identified by city and county government officials, aim to offer regional stakeholders fresh ideas for old challenges. Graduate and undergraduate students from colleges and departments around the UMD campus, completed the 14 projects—ten for the county and four for the city—throughout the past summer and fall semester. In addition to reports and recommendations on a number of topics, the coursework generated a recommendation and demonstration of software to help the county track electricity usage in county facilities in real time, and mapped analysis of public safety hotspots to help improve EMS service.

Members of the George Washington University community celebrated and honored the life and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. through service, leadership and development and interfaith dialogue. This year, the MLK Day of Service programming included workshops and programs designed to engage the community in citizen leadership development in addition to direct service projects. GW President Steven Knapp participated in the “Messages from the Mountaintop” public reading of Dr. King’s letters, sermons and speeches in Kogan Plaza on January 19th. The events were sponsored by the Honey W. Nashman Center for Civic Engagement and Public Service, with the support from the Multicultural Services Center, and the Office for Diversity, Equity and Community Engagement.

In honor of the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr., Georgetown University hosted a semester of musical, academic, spiritual and service events. Among programs offered:

- The presentation of the John Thompson Jr Legacy of a Dream Award to Abel Núñez, Executive Director of the Central American Resource Center;
- The “Let Freedom Ring! Concert” at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts featuring Grammy Award-winning singer and song writer Gladys Knight;
- The unveiling of a new musical work at the “Let Freedom Ring Concert” by Rev. Nolan Williams, Jr., who was inspired by Georgetown’s ongoing efforts to more fully recognize its historical involvement in the American slave trade. The song was entitled “We Choose to Remember;”
- The presentation of an honorary decree to Lonnie Bunch, Founding Director of the National Museum of African American History and Culture. (For more on Lonnie Bunch’s honorary degree, see Gold Stars);
- A teach-in on January 10th featuring African American history scholar Ibram X. Kendi who wrote the 2016 National Book Award winner Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America. The teach-in attracted about 75 faculty and staff members and focused on Martin Luther King’s April 4th, 1967 speech, “Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence.” Like that speech, the teach-in reflected Dr. King’s stance against the Vietnam War, the policies that created the war and economic inequality; and
- An event on January 18th designed to encourage informal dialogue among participants surrounding the intersection of faith and race. The event was sponsored by the Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs as part of the American Pilgrimage
Project, a university partnership with StoryCorp, which collects and shares stories from ordinary Americans about their encounters with religion, race and society. Author and American Pilgrimage Project Director Paul Elie moderated the informal conversation among West Virginian ministers Ronald English and James Patterson and Baltimore residents Ralph and Dana Moore. The four talked about their personal relationship with religion. Rev. English was Martin Luther King Jr.’s assistant at the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta.

Marymount University’s varsity athletic teams are a competitive bunch, even when it comes to community service. During an event following the school’s December 2nd, 2016 Christmas tree lighting ceremony, the women’s soccer team made 46 fleece-tie baby blankets to the men’s baseball team’s 45, all part of an annual event that has grown during each of the last four years. The annual blanket-drive benefits HOPE in Northern Virginia, a local pregnancy shelter. In addition to having the most varsity teams participate, Marymount’s Student-Athlete Advisory Committee donated $500 of the $1,700 raised for materials. A total of 215 Marymount students participated in the event, making a total of 380 blankets.

The University of Maryland Police launched a Community Police Academy in February giving a mix of 22 college students and staff a chance to walk in the shoes of University Police officers. The Academy is designed to raise trust between students and staff and demonstrate how the department protects the campus, according to University Police Chief David Mitchell.

THE PLACE TO BE

On December 3rd, the Georgetown University Hotel and Conference Center played host to the Seventh Annual Ruesch Center Symposium, titled “Fighting a Smarter War Against Cancer.” More than 400 health professionals, patients, and advocates attended and heard about a recent survey finding that more than half of the 500 gastrointestinal cancer patients didn’t know about survivorship care plans despite the fact that more than 11 years ago, the Institute of Medicine recommended that every cancer survivor have such a plan.

On December 6th, George Washington University’s Women’s Institute hosted an event celebrating its five years of research and action. Andrea Seabrook, Washington Bureau Chief and Senior Editor of Marketplace, served as Master of Ceremonies. The program included recognition of the inaugural Knapp Global Women’s Fellow, Iranian journalist Yeganeh Rezaian, as well as the announcement of the GWI Leadership Council.

On December 15th, Georgetown University co-sponsored a workshop examining the ways faith-based organizations might address the growing global health threat of antimicrobial resistance (AMR). The workshop was held during a four-day gathering in Rome that brought together various Catholic organizations, health associations and practitioners, scientific experts, government representatives and nongovernmental organizations to increase awareness of the AMR challenge and to develop and support implementation of plans to combat it. The workshop was organized by Georgetown, the Georgetown Berkley Center for Religion, Peace and World Affairs, the U.S. Embassy to the Holy See, the U.S. Department of State Office of Religion and Global Affairs and Caritas International.
On January 18th, the Democratic National Committee hosted a debate at George Washington University’s Jack Morton Auditorium for candidates vying to be the DNC’s next chair. The Huffington Post and the GW School of Media and Public Affairs co-sponsored the debate.

On January 23rd, Ken Smith Ramos, Head of the Trade and NAFTA Office of the Ministry of the Economy of Mexico, shared an insider’s perspective in his remarks during a conference entitled “Renegotiating NAFTA: The View from Mexico” which was held at Georgetown University. The event was hosted by Georgetown Law’s Institute of International Economic Law as part of Professor Chris Brummer’s International Economic Law and Policy Colloquium. Ramos noted that 5 million U.S. jobs depend on trade in goods and services with Mexico and that Mexican companies employ more than 120,000 workers in the U.S.

A special event celebrating the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Outer Space Treaty of 1967 (OST) occurred on the campus of Georgetown University on January 27th. Adjunct Professor (and Georgetown Law alumnus) Steve Mirmina (LLM ’06), who teaches a popular seminar on Outer Space Law; Professor David Koplow; and Adjunct Professor Robert Dalton, Senior Advisor on Treaty Practice at the U.S. Department of State; were on hand to discuss how to interpret the treaty in light of developments unforeseen at the time of the drafting, such as the activities of commercial companies in outer space and the application of criminal law in space. The event attracted approximately 80 scholars and students and was organized with the help of Georgetown alumna Oonagh Sands (LLM’03) and Charles Stotler, both of the American Society of International Law Interest Group.

On January 30th, the George Washington University hosted its annual Lunar New Year Celebration. This event, co-sponsored by the GW’s Confucius Institute; Sigur Center for Asian Studies; Department of East Asian Languages & Literatures; the Multicultural Student Services Center; and the International Services Office, featured welcoming remarks from GW President Steven Knapp, followed by student performances and a reception. The George Washington University Museum and the Textile Museum also hosted several events throughout the weekend to celebrate the Lunar New Year.

Food Tank, in partnership with George Washington University and the World Resources Institute, held a one-day summit titled “Let’s Build Better Food Policy,” bringing together more than 35 top leaders from the food industry. Sessions included “Creating Resiliency in the Food and Agriculture System,” “Global Food Security and Change,” “Local and Regional Food Systems,” and “Future of the Farm Bill.” The summit was held on campus on February 2nd. GW President Knapp made remarks.

Throughout February, George Washington University celebrated George Washington’s 285th birthday and the 196th anniversary of the university’s founding with a series of Celebrate GW events on campus and around the world. The month-long celebration kicked off on Charter Day on February 9th with a celebration in the District House Residence Hall. The annual birthday bonfire took place on February 10th. And, on February 22nd, the first president’s actual birthday, the university hosted a visit and wreath laying at the Mount Vernon Estate in Virginia and the 6th annual George Washington Lecture on campus. GW alumni also celebrated George Washington’s birthday at events in cities worldwide.
On February 25th, the **George Washington University Center for Student Engagement** hosted Elect Her, a daylong training which provided participants with the opportunity to learn and practice hands-on campaign skills; hear from inspiring speakers; and discuss dynamics of women in government. Krishna Ghodiwala, Associate Director of the DC Office on Women’s Policy and Initiatives, and Jamie Jones Miller, Chief of Staff for Representative Robert J. Wittman (R-VA), made remarks.

**ARTS AND CULTURE**

**George Washington University’s Luther W. Brady Art Gallery** showcased paintings, small ceramic objects and works on paper by Glenn Goldberg—a prolific Brooklyn-based painter—in the new exhibition, “Of Leaves and Clouds.” The exhibition focused on the artist’s intimate relationship with nature, a theme present throughout Mr. Goldberg’s decades-long career. It also featured his most recent paintings completed within his Brooklyn studio. The exhibition was on display from January 11th to April 14th.

**Georgetown Arts & Medicine,** in partnership with the **Georgetown Office of Diversity and Inclusion,** hosted “What Makes You . . ?” on January 17th. The event was organized in order to celebrate the artistic and diverse perspectives of the **Georgetown University School of Medicine** community students, faculty and staff. Several students read essays reflecting on the experiences that led them to pursue medical education and the family members of friends who helped them along the way. The event featured original music, spoken word, a Capella, musical theater and a fashion show. The performances were preceded by a reception where attendees enjoyed two photography displays: “My White Coat Means,” a photo series by **Georgetown Arts and Medicine,** and “A Day in the Life,” a photo series by Kevin Benamer from the **Office of Diversity and Inclusion.**

The exhibition “Decolonizing Alaska” at **George Washington University’s Corcoran School of Arts and Design** explored how 31 native and non-native Alaskan artists are grappling with issues related to climate change and responding to socio-political conditions in the state. “Decolonizing Alaska” was open to the public from February 3rd through March 18th.

**SPORTS**

There was much activity among **George Washington University’s** sports teams over the winter:

- Men’s soccer senior Tobi Adewole signed a professional contract with the Pittsburgh Riverhounds of the United Soccer League for its upcoming season. Adewole capped a strong collegiate career with the Colonials in 2016, earning A-10 All-Conference Second Team honors for the second time as a defender. Adwole also displayed offensive skills throughout his tenure, totaling 15 points on five goals and five assists;
- Gymnastics senior Chelsea Raineri earned her third consecutive East Atlantic Gymnastics League (EAGL) Specialist of the Week award to open the season on January 25th. The honor marks her sixth career Specialist of the Week award from the Conference, as well as...
the ninth time in her career that she has earned an EAGL weekly award (Gymnast, Specialist or Rookie of the Week);

- GW’s Athletic Academic Dean’s List members and the student-athletes’ choice for Professor of the Year were honored during halftime at the men’s basketball game against Massachusetts in the Smith Center on February 23rd; and

- the No. 10 George Washington Gymnastics Team captured its fifth consecutive title at the 10th Annual Lindsey Ferris Invitational on January 14th behind strong team performances on both vault and balance beam. The Colonials captured event titles on both events to help propel them to victory in their home opener. GW (4-0) totaled 195.225 points behind team scores of 49.025 on vault, 48.00 on uneven bars; 49.375 on balance beam; and 48.825 on floor exercise. The team score on balance beam was just 0.125 off the program-record mark of 49.50. Pennsylvania finished in second place with 193.275, followed by North Carolina (192.30) and Cornell (190.825).

**Life After College**

Despite the fact that Kellyanne Conway is an alumna of Trinity Washington University, Trinity President Patricia McGuire has not been shy about criticizing some of Conway’s more controversial positions. Presidential Counselor Conway, Trinity Class of 1989, has played a large role in facilitating the manipulation of facts and encouraging the grave injustice being perpetrated by the Trump Administration’s war on immigrants, among many other issues,” wrote President McGuire in her blog. President McGuire said she felt a moral imperative to speak out against the Trump Administration—in particular for its policies on immigration and its lack of truthfulness.

In a related story, a group of law professors from around the country has filed a professional misconduct complaint against Ms. Conway, a graduate of George Washington University Law School, who was admitted to the DC Bar in 1995. The letter, filed with the office that handles misconduct by members, said Conway should be sanctioned for violating government ethics rules and “conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation.” The 15 professors, who specialize in legal ethics, cited several examples. They teach at various law schools including Georgetown University Law Center, Yale Law School, Fordham University, and Duke University.

On January 19th, the Atlantic 10 announced that George Washington University Men’s Basketball Team alumni Bob Tallent (BS ’69), and Tajama Abraham Ngongba (BA ’97), would be honored as A-10 Legends at the Conference’s respective men’s and women’s basketball championships in March. Tallent and Ngongba are among the 2017 class that includes 28 former men’s and women’s basketball student-athletes and coaches who made an immeasurable impact on each A-10 institution and its basketball program. This year marks the fifth class of A-10 Legends.

The Forbes’ “30 Under 30” list included a number of Consortium-member alumni including:

- Davina Durgana, an American University alumna, who was on the list of “People to Watch in the Sciences.” She is using her academic specialty—statistics—and her talent for foreign languages to look for new approaches to combating human trafficking.
Specifically, she is reviewing statistics to ascertain where instances of human trafficking are most prevalent work which led to her recognition by *Forbes*; and

- **Four UMD alumni including:**
  - Adam Behrens (PhD Bioengineering; BS Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering), who was named to the 2017 Healthcare List in recognition of his recent efforts to advance the development of vaccines and diagnostic testing, specifically vaccines that don’t require refrigeration as well as a push to develop diagnostic tests that can detect infectious diseases at patient’s bedsides;
  - Mackenzie Burnett (BA, Government and Politics; BA International Relations) and Dan Gillespie (BS, Geographical Information Systems), who were selected in the Enterprise Technology category for their work cofounding Redspread, a collaborative software deployment tool startup which they founded at UMD in 2015. The company was acquired in October 2016 by San Francisco-based CoreOS. Burnett is head of product and Gillespie leads upstream Kubernetes development. Burnett is also Executive Director of Interact ATX, a nonprofit that helped connect young technologists and thinkers;
  - Akshay Goyal, a 2010 graduate of the Robert H. Smith School of Business, who is Vice President of the private investment firm, Starwood Capital Group. Goyal, who focuses on hotel acquisitions for Starwood, was the youngest vice president in the firm’s history when he was promoted at age 26; and
  - Evan Lutz, a 2014 alumnus of the Smith School of Business, who was recognized for co-founding Hungry Harvest, which buys “ugly” and surplus produce from farms in the Mid-Atlantic region of the U.S. and delivers boxes of fruits and vegetables via a subscription-based model to customers in and around Baltimore, Philadelphia, and Washington, DC. In January 2016, he appeared on “Shark Tank” and received a $100,000 investment from Robert Herjavec for a 10 percent stake in Hungry Harvest.

The list, now in its sixth year, highlights 30 game-changers all under 30 years old “who are challenging the conventional wisdom and rewriting the rules for the next generation of entrepreneurs, entertainers, educators and more.”

Recently, the United States Postal Service (USPS) announced the honorees who will be featured on *Forever* stamps in 2017, including deaf trailblazer, **Gallaudet University** alumnus Dr. Robert Panara (’45; H’85). The 16th stamp in the Distinguished American series honors the late Panara, an influential teacher and pioneer in the field of deaf studies. The stamp features a 2009 photograph of Panara, shown signing the word “respect,” in American Sign Language (ASL). During his 40-year teaching career, Panara inspired generations of students with his powerful use of ASL. Panara taught at **Gallaudet** for nearly 20 years, as well as at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID), part of the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) in New York. **Gallaudet** awarded Dr. Panara with an honorary doctorate in 1985 for his contributions to the university as well as the deaf community.
**Georgetown University** alumnus Eugene “Gene” Ubalijoro (B’86) is achieving his childhood dream of working in the beverage industry. He rose from trainee to Managing Director of the Heineken Caribbean and Americas Export region, responsible for more than 50 markets including Canada, the Caribbean, and South America. Reflecting the social service model he learned at Georgetown, in 2010 he worked with Heineken to launch Brewing a Better Future (now known as Brewing a Better World), a global program designed to improve environmental impact of brands and business; to employ people locally; and to positively impact the role of beer in society. A major part of the program in Haiti included Heineken’s 2011 purchase of Brasserie Nationale d’Haïti (Brana), the bottling plant and brewery that produces Haiti’s only beer, Prestige, which resulted in many much-needed jobs after the 2010 Haitian earthquake.

**George Washington University** alumna and *Politico* reporter Hadas Gold (BA ’10; MA ’12) joined WTTG-FOX 5 as a political contributor.

Dr. Vera Cooper Rubin died in December. She was one of America’s most famous astronomers who discovered compelling evidence for the existence of dark matter. She received her PhD from **Georgetown University** in 1954 and subsequently worked at the university as a researcher and professor. While Dr. Rubin made her most famous discoveries at the Carnegie Institute after leaving Georgetown, she returned to campus in 1997 to deliver a commencement speech for **Georgetown College** and to receive an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters. Dr. Rubin received the National Medal of Science in 1993; was a member of the National Academy of Sciences; and blazed a path for women in science, making internationally valued contributions while raising four children (all of whom obtained PhD’s as well).

Two **George Washington University** alumnae received NAACP Image Award nominations:

- Kerry Washington (BA ’98; DFA (Hon.) ’13) who was nominated for two awards: Outstanding Actress in a Drama Series for “Scandal” (*ABC*) and Outstanding Actress in a Television Movie, Limited-Series or Dramatic Special for “Confirmation” (*HBO*); and
- Yvonne Orji (BA ’05; MPH ’08) who was nominated for Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Comedy Series for “Insecure” (*HBO*).

Inspired by her roots and sparked by her experiences at the School of Foreign Service (SFS) at **Georgetown University**, Jascinta Izevbegie (SFS’14) has set herself on a path of research and service in Africa. Her focus on gender issues in post-conflict African countries has taken her around the African continent, from Liberia and Nigeria to Rwanda and South Africa. Izevbegie says that at SFS the African Studies Program was an integral part of her experience, providing mentorship and opportunities to gain research experience on-campus and abroad. Her research was most recently presented to Presidents Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia and Joyce Banda of Malawi.

**George Washington University** hosted its annual Capitol Hill Alumni Reception in the Russell Senate Office Building on January 31st. **GW President Steven Knapp, GW Alumni Association** President Jeremy Gosbee and GW alumni including Sen. Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) (MA ’92); Senator Mark Warner (D-VA) (BA ’77); Senator Mike Enzi (R-WY) (BA ’66); Representative Neal Dunn (R-FL) (MD ’79); and Representative Darren Soto (D-FL) (JD ’04) attended the reception. Senator Tim Kaine (D-VA), parent of a GW alumnus, also attended.
**WHAT'S NEXT?**

**CAMPUS CALENDAR**

**May 12**
Commencement Ceremonies for **Gallaudet University** at the Field House on campus

**May 13**
Commencement Ceremonies for the **University of the District of Columbia** at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Downtown, DC

Commencement Ceremonies for the **Catholic University of America**
At the Basilica of the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

Commencement Ceremonies for **American University** at Bender Arena on campus

Commencement Ceremonies for **Howard University** at the Upper Quadrangle on campus

**May 14**
Commencement Ceremonies for **Northern Virginia Community College** at Jiffy Lube Live Arena

**May 18-21**
Commencement Ceremonies for various colleges and academic specialties
At **Georgetown University**;

**May 20**
Commencement Ceremonies for **Uniformed Service University of the Health Sciences** at DAR Constitution Hall

Commencement Ceremonies for **George Mason University** at Eagle Bank Arena on campus

Commencement Ceremonies for **Trinity Washington University** on Campus

Commencement Ceremonies for **Montgomery County Community College** on MC Rockville Campus

**May 21**
Commencement Ceremonies for **George Washington University**
Undergraduate, Graduate and Medical School students on the National Mall

Commencement Ceremonies for the **University of the District of Columbia** at Xfinity Center on UM campus
Commencement Ceremonies for **Marymount University** at DAR Constitution Hall

Commencement Ceremonies for **Georgetown University Law School** on Healy Lawn and **Georgetown University Medical Center** at DAR Constitution Hall

**May 26**

Commencement Ceremonies for the **Columbus School of Law** at the **Catholic University of America** at the Basilica of the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

**June 1**

Commencement Ceremonies at Fort Bragg Army Base for John F. Kennedy Warfare Center and School, affiliated with **National Defense University**

**June 8**

**National Defense University** Graduate Commencement Ceremonies, Fort McNair

**June 16**

Commencement Ceremonies for Joint Forces Staff College, affiliated with The **National Defense University** in Norfolk, VA