Spring Commencement season including moving stories and teary graduates and family members. Here are some Spring Commencement 2019 stories and details:

- **At American University**, Commencement Ceremonies were held Saturday, May 11 and Sunday, May 12, in Bender Arena. The ceremonies for AU’s School of Public Affairs, School of Communication, College of Arts and Sciences, School of Education, and School of Professional and Extended Studies took place on May 11. The ceremonies for the Kogod School of Business and School of International Service occurred on May 12;

- **At Catholic University**, Commencement took place on May 18 at 10 a.m. on the East Steps of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Jesús Colina, journalist and founder of Zenit News Service and Aleteia Website addressed the Undergraduate and Graduate Commencement Ceremonies and Judge William T. Newman Jr., Chief Judge for Arlington Circuit Court of the 17th Judicial Circuit in Virginia, addressed the Columbus School of Law Commencement;

- **At Gallaudet University**, the 149th Undergraduate and Graduate Commencement Ceremonies took place on May 17 at 1:00 p.m. on campus;

- **At George Mason University**, GMU held its 52nd annual Undergraduate and Graduate Commencement Ceremonies on May 17 at EagleBank Arena. Amina J. Mohammed, United Nationals Deputy Secretary General addressed the Main Commencement Ceremonies;

- **At George Washington University**, news about GW’s Commencement was announced by Savannah Guthrie, Co-Anchor of NBC News’ TODAY on the show. Ms. Guthrie delivered the Commencement Address on May 19 on the National Mall. At the ceremony, the university conferred honorary degrees of Doctor Public Service on Ms. Guthrie and businesswoman and philanthropist Cindy McCain, and an honorary degree of Doctor of Science on former NASA engineer Christine Darden, (D.Sc. ’83). Tyriana Evans, (BA ’19), delivered the Student Commencement Speech. The TODAY Show announcement about the GW Commencement included a short video featuring GW students addressing Ms. Guthrie;

- **At Georgetown University**, University Commencement was held on May 18 on Healy Lawn;
- At **Marymount University** Graduate Ceremonies were held on May 18 and Undergraduate Ceremonies on May 19 at DAR Constitution Hall in Washington, DC. **Marymount** alumnae Susan Lacz (“83), President and CEO of Ridgewell’s Catering, addressed the Undergraduate Ceremonies and Catherine M. Patten, Provincial Superior of the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary (RSHM), addressed the Graduate Ceremonies; 

- At **Montgomery College**, college-wide Commencement Ceremonies were held on May 17 on the Rockville campus. Shelia Johnson, cofounder of Black Entertainment Television (BET), CEO of Salamander Resorts, and Team President and Managing Partner of the WNBA’s Washington Mystics addressed the Commencement Ceremonies; 

- At the **National Intelligence University**, Commencement Ceremonies were held on July 27. Gilman Louie, a Silicon Valley technology venture capitalist, addressed the Commencement Ceremonies; 

- At **Northern Virginia Community College**, the 53rd annual Commencement Ceremonies took place on May 17 at the Jiffy Lube Live concert venue in Bristow, VA. Guylane Saint Juste, Executive Director of YearUp, National Capital Region, addressed the Commencement Ceremonies; 

- At **Prince George’s County Community College**, Commencement Ceremonies were held on May 23 at the Show Place Arena in Upper Marlboro, MD. Rosie Allen-Herring, President and CEO of the United Way of the National Capital Area, addressed Commencement Ceremonies; 

- At **Trinity Washington University**, celebrations of **Trinity’s** 116th Commencement took place on May 18 at 4:00 pm on the **Trinity** Main Lawn. More than 400 undergraduate and graduate degrees were issued. The Commencement Speaker was **Trinity** graduate Sharon Brady Raimo (’69), who was celebrating her 50th Reunion and who also earned her Master’s Degree in Education from **Trinity** in 1994. Ms. Raimo is the long-serving CEO of the highly regarded St. Coletta of Greater Washington, a nonprofit organization with a mission to serve children and adults with intellectual disabilities and to support their families. In 2013, she was named a Washingtonian of the Year by Washingtonian magazine. At Commencement, she received an honorary degree from **Trinity**; 

- At the **Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences**, Commencement Ceremonies were held on May 18 at DAR Constitution Hall. Vice Admiral C. Forrest Faison, U.S. Navy Surgeon General, addressed the Commencement Ceremonies; 

- At the **University of the District of Columbia**, the 43rd Undergraduate and Graduate Ceremonies were held on May 11 at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center. Congresswoman Maxine Waters (D-CA) delivered keynote remarks to the Commencement Ceremonies; and 

- At the **University of Maryland**, campus-wide ceremonies took place on May 24 at the XFINITY Center. Former New York Mayor and entrepreneur Michael R. Bloomberg addressed the commencement.
2018 Elections

The 2018 mid-term elections continue to reverberate. Impact of the election on Consortium members include:

At Trinity Washington University:

- **Trinity** graduates and honorary degree recipients were re-elected in DC and across the country and will continue to serve their country and communities with pride. Elected **Trinity** alumnae include:
  - Cong. Nancy Pelosi (’62) (D-CA), who is once again Speaker of the House – the first and only woman to be elected to that position. (For more on Speaker Pelosi and **Trinity** see Spotlight: Presidents; Big Men (and Women) on Campus; and The Place to Be);
  - Sen. Kathleen Passidomo (’75) (R-Naples), who won a second term in the Florida Senate;
  - Veronica Nolan (’99), who was re-elected to the Alexandria, Virginia, School Board; and
  - Two Honorary **Trinity** alumnae were also elected. DC Mayor Muriel Bowser (D) was re-elected for a second term; and Cong. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC) was reelected to the U.S. House of Representatives. Delegate Norton also formally taught at **Georgetown University Law School**—See Below;

- **Trinity**: Where Women Lead!

At Georgetown University:

- Twenty eight alumni and one long-term former faculty member were sworn into the 116th Congress on January 3rd. They represent 21 states, the U.S. Virgin Islands and the District of Columbia and include:
  - Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) (C’80);
  - Senator Dan Sullivan (R-AK) (G’93, L’93);
  - Representative Ted Lieu (D-CA) (L’94);
  - Representative Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC), former **GU Law** faculty member (also a **Trinity** alumnae, see above);
  - Representative Lois Frankel (D-FL) (L’73);
  - Representative Stephanie Murphy (D-FL) (G’04);
  - Representative Francis Rooney (R-FL) (C’75, L’78);
  - Senator Mazie Hirono (D-HI) (L’78);
  - Senator Richard Durbin (D-IL) (SFS’66, L’69);
  - Representative Trey Hollingsworth (R-IN) (G’14);
  - Representative Peter Visclosky (D-IN) (L’82);
  - Representative Steny Hoyer (D-MD) (L’66);
  - Senator Christopher Van Hollen (D’MD) (L’90);
  - Representative Lori Trahan (D-MA) (SFS’95) (freshmen member);
  - Representative Debbie Dingell (D-MI) (SFS’75, G’98);
Representative Jeff Fortenberry (R-NB) (G’86);
Representative Xochitl Torres Small (D-NM) (SFS’07) (freshman member);
Representative Ann McLane Kuster (D-NH) (L’84);
Representative Rebecca “Mikie” Sherrill (D-NJ) (L’07) (freshman member);
Representative Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY) (G’94);
Representative David Cicilline (D-RI) (L’86);
Representative Henry Cuellar (D-TX) (SFS’78);
Representative Filemon Vela (D-TX) (C’85);
Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT) (L’64);
Representative Stacey Plaskett (D-VI) (SFS’88);
Representative Pramila Jayapal (D-WA) (C’86);
Representative Mike Gallagher (R-WI) (G’12, G’13, G’15);
Representative Bryan Steil (R-WI) (B’02) (freshman member); and
Senator John Barrasso (R-WY) (C’75, M’78);

Georgetown researchers examined the election including the following:

- Jamil Scott, Assistant Professor of Government, who researched the 2018 election results from her expertise in political behavior and representation, race ethnicity and gender politics. She found that more women than ever were elected, including both Congresswomen, Senators and down-ballot officials; and
- Michele Swers, an American government professor and expert on women in Congress, who noted that 2018 is the Year of the Democratic Woman with the number of women elected as Democrats surging while the number of elected as Republicans remaining static; and

At George Washington University:

- On March 6, GW’s Graduate School of Political Management and Axios, in collaboration with the School of Media and Public Affairs and the AT&T Center for Indigenous Politics and Policy, presented “More Than a Vote: Inspiring Youth Civic Engagement.” The panel conversation featured recently-elected members of Congress who shared their own experiences as rising political leaders and discussed strategies and methods to motivate young people to get involved in politics and in their communities beyond Election Day.

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) and Immigration News

Several Consortium members have been active on immigration issues including:

- Georgetown University where:
  - On February 4, Georgetown President John J. DeGioia joined the Presidents’ Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration (the Alliance), comprised of more than 400 university presidents, in sending letters to Congress encouraging resolution for DACA and Temporary Protective Status (TPS) holders. The letters urged top Congressional leaders to pass permanent protections to relieve university communities experiencing “high anxiety and uncertainty” across
the country. **President DeGioia** is a founding member of the Alliance which also includes **Trinity’s Pat McGuire** (see below);

- In December, **Georgetown** signed onto an amicus brief alongside **Trinity** (see more about the brief below);

- During Winter Break, 14 **Georgetown Law** students, faculty, staff and alumni spent five days in Dilley, TX helping migrants seeking asylum; and

- In January, a group of university leaders traveled to the border with Mexico at Nogales, AZ for the university’s **Kino Board Initiative** offered by the **Office of Mission and Ministry**, the **Center for Social Justice Research, Teaching and Service (CSJ)**, and the **Center for Multicultural Equity and Access (CMEA)** (For more on **Georgetown’s** visit to the border, see Movers and Shakers);

**At Trinity Washington University** where:

- **President Patricia McGuire** was a featured speaker at the special national convening of the **Alliance** in Washington, DC in April. **President McGuire** and **Trinity** are leaders in this influential organization which also includes **Georgetown University’s President John DeGioia** (see above); and

- **Trinity** became one of 65 institutions of higher education that signed on to an **amicus curiae** brief filed in December supporting a legal challenge to recent immigration policy changes regarding the calculation of “unlawful presence” for holders of F, J, or M visas. The brief, coordinated by the Alliance, urged the federal court to grant the plaintiffs’ motion for a preliminary injunction. This “friend of the court” brief presents compelling evidence of how “international students and scholars add immeasurable value to the educational environment of all host institutions” [and] . . . “are a key reason why American colleges and universities are the world’s leading destination for higher learning;” (**Georgetown University** is also a signatory-see above); and

**At Marymount University** where the university has entered a new partnership with The Dream.U.S., a national scholarship offering up to $29,000 per year of financial support to DREAMERS entering their first year of college. Transfers from community colleges can qualify for $14,500 per year under the program. TheDream.U.S. has already partnered with over 75 colleges in 15 states and Washington, DC.

**Federal Government Shutdown**

**Consortium** members responded to the longest federal government shutdown in history in various ways:

- **American University’s School of Public Affairs** hosted more than 500 government employees on January 8 for “Classes Without Quizzes,” a free all-day event featuring workshops and training sessions;

- **George Washington University** responded in multiple ways
  - **GW President Thomas LeBlanc** offered available resources for members of the **GW** community affected by the partial government shutdown; and
  - **Columbian College’s School of Media and Public Affairs** and **Department of Political Science**, as well as the **Graduate School of Political Management** conducted a poll to determine some background about
how Republicans and Democrats were feeling about government. The GW Politics Poll, published January 15, found contrasting top priorities for Democratic and Republican voters and deep partisan division on the importance of many issues, highlighting the difficulty of reopening the government if action depends on a bipartisan immigration compromise. Conducted in mid-December, the poll also provided a first look at how voters view the expected field of 2020 Democratic presidential prospects;

- In the face of the partial government shutdown, George Mason University’s Center for Government Contracting laid out two proposals to prevent future disruptions:
  - First, ensure that government continues to operate as the executive and legislative branches negotiate annual appropriations bills for government operations; and
  - Second, government and industry should work closely together to address the challenges that impact the business of government, such as simplifying the acquisition process, helping small businesses transition and grow from government set-aside programs and creating new frameworks for intellectual property collaboration in high-tech areas.

In January, President Trump signed an order “temporarily” reopening the federal government after a 35-day shutdown designed to pressure the Congress into providing the Executive Branch with additional funding for a wall between the United States and Mexico—a long-stated campaign promise offered by the president during the 2016 campaign. Some college students claimed they were hindered from receiving federal student loans and grants due to the partial shutdown as IRS functions were impacted. The disruptions, which made it harder for some families to provide proof of their income, had the potential of blocking various financial aid funds from reaching students in need. Fortunately, the shutdown ended before students’ spring semester enrollment was effected.

Oscars 2019

Various Consortium member affiliated alumni and students were players in the 2019 Oscars Ceremonies this year including:

- George Washington University freshman Alden Sabah, who helped raise funds for the Netflix short documentary Period. End of Sentence which won an Oscar for Best Short Documentary. Sabah got involved in the project in high school when she joined the Pad Project, an initiative that educates young women on menstruation with the goal of preventing shame surrounding the topic and ensuring women across the globe stay in school;

- Georgetown University alumnus RaMell Ross (C’05)’s film Hale County This Morning, This Evening was nominated for Best Documentary (Feature). While the film won numerous awards including the 2018 Sundance Film Festival’s Special Jury Award, it did not win the Oscar. The film was about two young African American men from rural Hale County, Alabama and their community over the course of five years; and

- Catholic University alumnus Donald Shirley’s life was profiled in Green Book, the film that won the Best Picture Oscar this year. Greenbook is the story of African-American pianist and composer Donald Shirley’s concert tour through America’s segregated South in 1962.
NEW INITIATIVES

The University of the District of Columbia has established a new Institute of Politics Policy and History (IPPH) to be housed at the university and led by former DC Mayor Sharon Pratt. The new nonpartisan Institute will provide students extracurricular opportunities to interact with respected practitioners of politics and public policy and serve as a laboratory and incubator for historical research among UDC faculty and visiting scholars. Among the Institute’s Senior Advisory Committee:

- Michael Steele, political commentator and former RNC chairman (Co-chair);
- Karen Tramontano, Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer at Blue Star Strategies (Co-chair);
- Beverly Perry, Senior Advisor to the Mayor;
- The Honorable Charlene Drew Jarvis, UDC Board of Trustees;
- Mark Thompson, Media Commentator;
- UDC Alumna Sonia Gutierrez, President Emeritus and Founder of Carlos Rosario International Public Charter School; and
- Dr. April Massey, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. (For more about IPPH events, see Big Men (and Women) on Campus.)

As more evidence emerges of sexual abuse by Catholic clergy, Catholic universities are seeking answers including local Catholic universities:

- At Catholic University of America, the Catholic Project was launched on March 26 during the third installation of the Healing the Breach of Trust Conference Series. The Catholic Project is an initiative of CUA dedicated to renewal and healing in the Church in the wake of the sexual abuse crisis through faithful collaboration between the laity and clergy, as co-responsible partners in the mission of the Church. Catholic University President John Garvey said he has raised nearly $400,000 in recent months for the project and appointed CUA alumnus Stephen P. White to be its Executive Director; and

- At Georgetown University four different public dialogues organized by an abuse survivor have been held. The sessions have names like “Confronting a Moral Catastrophe.” The forums followed Georgetown President John DeGioia’s issuance at the beginning of the academic year of a community message describing the commitment of the university to respond to the crisis through dialogue, reflection and action; and the introduction of the Initiative on Catholic Social Thought and Public Life. The Initiative and other campus-affiliated groups hosted a series of events including several public dialogues on the lay leadership’s role in confronting the crisis; a prospective path forward; a dialogue for young Catholic leaders about the crisis; media coverage of the crisis; and an October program featuring Trinity Washington University President Patricia McGuire.

In May, Howard University and the National Institutes of Health launched a pilot program called the NIH-Howard University Intramural Research Collaboration (NIH-HUIIRC). The collaboration aims to successfully position Howard junior faculty on the path to becoming seasoned research investigators. The first phase of the two-year pilot will engage junior faculty, graduate and medical students and focus on innovative ways to address routine and recurring issues.
that arise in scientific research collaborations. Subsequent phases will expand to include faculty and students from other parts of the university.

The George Washington University Office of Student Financial Assistance announced that it has created the Financial Aid Student Advisory Council for the 2019 fall semester. The Council is a new aid counselor model designed to provide more personalized service to students by connecting them with an individual who is familiar with their case and can help solve complex issues. The changes will help students and their families navigate the financial aid process at GW.

Georgetown University’s leadership in the emerging field of Public Interest technology and its prime location in Washington, DC has led it to establish a network that will boost the field through scholarship, new courses, research collaborations and more. The new field aims to ensure technology serves the public good and reduces harm by educating new generations to combine knowledge in technology, ethics, strategy, policy making and service. In short—the new field will focus on bridging the gap between technological developments and people’s day-to-day lives.

In a related vein, a new center at American University’s School of International Service—the Center for Security, Innovation, and New Technology (CSINT)—aims to explore the costs and benefits of how new technology will shape the future. Targeted for research are new technologies including robotics, drones, artificial intelligence, self-driving cars, military robotics, the Internet of Things—and beyond. A key overarching focus of the new Center will be on the future of work. CSINT officially launched on February 19 with a book talk by author and former Pentagon official Paul Scharre discussing Army of None: Autonomous Weapons and the Future of War.

The Busch School of Business at The Catholic University of America and noted businesswoman Carly Fiorina have announced an ambitious academic partnership to integrate Fiorina’s leadership and problem-solving curriculum into the business student experience. A former Hewlett-Packard CEO and 2016 presidential nominee, Fiorina will, as a Distinguished Clinical Professor in leadership at the Busch School, work to incorporate her organizational leadership and problem-solving curriculum into a variety of Busch School courses, and develop a certificate program for the school that prepares students with the skills necessary to solve problems and become effective leaders. Ms. Fiorina credits her respect of the Catholic intellectual tradition for her business success—experience she hopes to translate to her role at the Busch School.

The University of the District of Columbia has been invited to join the ten other schools and take part in NASA’s 2019 Revolutionary Aerospace Systems Concepts – Academic Linkage (RASC-AL) Special Edition: Moon to Mars Ice and Prospecting Challenge. UDC has received $10,000 from NASA to design, build and test a prototype system capable of extracting water from surface ice on the Moon and Mars. The students named their prototype the Firebird Ice Rectifier and Extractor (FIRE). Selected teams traveled to NASA’s Langley Research Center in Hampton, Virginia, from June 4-6 to represent their universities in the competition.

American University’s School of Public Affairs (SPA) announced the new Public Affairs Diversity Alliance (the Alliance) with five other schools which unites top public affairs and policy schools that share a commitment to encouraging, training, mentoring, and promoting diverse scholars. The Alliance, the first of its kind in public affairs, seeks to encourage and sustain
a pipeline of candidates for faculty positions in criminal justice, policy and public administration. AU’s SPA will also chair the Alliance for a two-year term.

The Georgetown Global Cities Initiative (GCI), a network of Georgetown University faculty and students who share ideas and research on global urbanization, will explore what the United Nations describes as “one of the most important global trends in the 21st Century.” Based on the projection that the percentage of people living in urban areas will increase substantially by 2050, the GCI will explore various facets of urban research with a network of Georgetown-affiliated people and groups. The GCI network includes about 70 Georgetown faculty from disparate disciplines who work on the relationship between cities and climate change; governance and diplomacy; history and the humanities; health; sociology; digitization; infrastructure; and numerous other issues.

The University of the District of Columbia has recently opened an all-new Center for Diversity, Inclusion & Multicultural Affairs (CDIMA), which will support and promote inclusion for LGBTQ people and other historically marginalized communities. Among the communities that are the focus of the Center will be Dreamers, both documented and undocumented students; and first-generation students, specifically first-generation immigrants. The Center’s Founding Director is a nationally recognized LGBTQ advocate, Trinice McNally, who previously served as the Coordinator of Diversity Initiatives at Bethune-Cookman University.

Two George Mason University projects are bolstering Mason’s vision of inclusion—a memorial to honor the enslaved people owned by the school’s namesake—George Mason—and a building on the SciTech Campus in Manassas, Va., named for trailblazing African American mathematician Katherine Johnson. Mason President Ángel Cabrera said the two projects support the university’s mission as an innovative and inclusive academic community and enable Mason to “evolve in our symbols to be true to that vision of inclusion.”

On March 8, American University installed Dr. Brett Anita Gilbert as the inaugural Kogod Regional Innovation Chair during a ceremony on campus. The Chair was made possible by Trustee Emeritus Robert P. Kogod ('62, H’00) and Arlene R. Kogod through funding from the Arlene R. and Robert P. Kogod Regional Innovation Fund, designed to connect business scholars with the area’s business community and to support research on the increasing significance of regional economic centers. Dr. Gilbert, an accomplished entrepreneurship researcher, will focus on venture growth and innovation, geographic clusters, and the development of emerging technologies.

In January, Georgetown University’s Institute for Women, Peace and Security (GIWPS) launched Seeking Peace, a new podcast featuring some of the world’s most influential leaders and celebrity activists exploring the role of women in preventing conflict and achieving sustainable peace. Melanie Verveer, Executive Director of GIWPS and former U.S. Ambassador for Global Women’s Issues, says the podcast—the first of its kind dedicated to the intersection of gender, conflict, and peace—shows women are not just victims of conflict. Rather they are leaders and unsung heroes who can bring peace to their countries. Featured speakers on the first episodes were actress and advocate Kristen Bell and former Secretary of State and 2016 presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton. (For more on GIWPS, see Place to Be.)
Marymount University President Irma Becerra was inaugurated as the university’s 7th president on March 28 at the Main Campus. Following a Mass led by Bishop Michael Burbidge, President Becerra delivered remarks noting “While guided by the legacy of Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary Sister Majella Berg, we now look to the future with the leadership of our board, faculty, staff and students. Marymount is an aspirational university and in many ways the goals of this campus match my own.” Highlights of the festivities included:

- President Becerra’s introduction of the 2019-2024 Strategic Plan which she says will focus on four areas: distinctive identity, transformative experiences, vibrant community and sustainable future, including plans for a $250 million endowment; and
- Additional Inaugural events such as lectures, sports, art openings and a student ball.

President Becerra, a Cuban-born American, earned her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in electrical engineering from the University of Miami and became the first woman to earn a doctorate in engineering from Florida International University (FIU) in Miami. She then worked as a professor at FIU and later led the school’s Entrepreneurship Center. (For more on the Strategic Plan, see Campus News.)

Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) has named Melvyn Schiavelli as its Interim President. Schiavelli, the school’s Executive Vice President for Academic and Student Services, will serve in the role as NOVA searches for a permanent replacement for outgoing president Scott Ralls, who left to lead Wake Technical Community College in North Carolina. Schiavelli began his service in the role on March 15.

George Mason University President Ángel Cabrera was named the new president of the Georgia Institute of Technology in June. His acting replacement, Anne Holton, a former Virginia Education Secretary, was named in late June by the George Mason Board of Visitors. President Holton will be the first woman to lead Virginia’s largest public research university bringing with her deep ties to Richmond. President Holton does not plan to seek the permanent position as a national search is launched by the Board of Trustees.

A group of Howard University doctoral students are receiving an exceptional opportunity to learn the intricacies of higher education presidency through a weekly course taught by Howard University President Wayne A.I. Frederick, as part of the School of Education’s Higher Education Leadership and Policy Studies (HELPs) Ph.D. program. The course, titled “ELPS 603-College and University Presidency,” provides a detailed understanding of the structure and governance of colleges and universities with particular focus on Minority Serving Institutions (MSI). This is President Frederick’s second turn as an instructor for the HELPs program.

Georgetown University President John J. DeGioia joined heads of state, CEOs and other university presidents from around the world at the HeForShe Summit September 26 during the United Nations General Assembly in New York City. The assembled dignitaries explored emerging solutions in the fight for global gender equality. Since 2016, Georgetown has participated as a founding university IMPACT Champion in the HeForShe Campaign, a UN Women movement to engage men and boys in the fight for gender equality. During a panel on gender-based violence, moderated by actress and UN Women Global Goodwill Ambassador Anne Hathaway, President DeGioia focused on Georgetown’s HeForShe commitment to make the
university campus a safe, respectful place for all community members. President DeGioia is one of just ten HeForShe University IMPACT Champions worldwide and one of only two in the United States. (For more on HeForShe, see Campus Competitions).

George Washington University President Thomas LeBlanc shared his thoughts on the university’s future with alumni, donors, friends and incoming students from the class of 2023 at events in Palm Beach, Florida on February 26. GW has a strong presence in South Florida, with more than 5,600 alumni in the region. More than 50 students in the class of 2022 hail from South Florida and roughly 650 individuals have applied to be a part of the class of 2023. The event was one of many the president has held across the country during the past year.

Trinity Washington University President McGuire was busy throughout 2018-2019 Academic Year:

- She was a special guest of the Honorable Nancy Pelosi in the House Gallery to witness Speaker Pelosi’s historic election and swearing in on January 2nd. Speaker Pelosi become, for a second time, Speaker of the House – the first and only woman to hold such a politically powerful position. (For more on Speaker Pelosi and Trinity, see Lead Story; Big Men (and Women) on Campus; and The Place to Be);
- She was one of ten presidents of Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) invited to a special presidents’ convening during the Council on International Educational Exchange’s (CIEE) Annual Conference in Barcelona, Spain, in November. The meeting discussed the creation of pathways for significant engagement of students of color with study abroad opportunities, which is currently quite low. President McGuire’s participation in this initiative is a component of a larger strategy to internationalize Trinity’s curricula and open opportunities for Trinity students to obtain a wider world view and global affairs experience across all of our disciplines and degree levels;
- She participated in a meeting in December with (now former) Deputy Mayor for Economic Development Brian Kenner about Amazon HQ2 and the potential impact and opportunities for area universities;
- She wrote a powerful op-ed in March criticizing President Trump’s recent Executive Order to “protect” free speech on campus. In her essay, “Whose Freedom of Speech?”, President McGuire persuasively writes that President Trump's Executive Order is all about protecting only certain kinds of speakers — those toward the right side of the political spectrum: “A suspicious odor wafts through Trump’s executive order that only one kind of student is worthy of protection — namely, the student whose political views he favors,” she wrote;
- She was the featured speaker and leader of a two-day retreat and in-service training program for teachers and administrators in the Archdiocese of Washington;
- She wrote an op-ed in the Chronicle of Higher Education in January on mission and metrics in higher education. The article was entitled, “Yes, We Need Accountability. But We Also Need Institutional Diversity;” and
- In January, she was invited by Ward 5 Councilmember Kenyan McDuffie to participate in a Ward 8 Forum in Anacostia on how DC is addressing racial and economic equality, particularly for the residents of Ward 8. The forum drew more than 300 residents and five DC Council members. Veteran reporter Tom Sherwood wrote an article on the forum for
the City Paper, in which he quoted President McGuire extensively entitled “DC Tackles Racial Equity.”

On January 28, George Washington University School of Business (GWSB) Dean Anuj Mehrotra interviewed GW President Thomas LeBlanc for GWSB’s inaugural George Talks Business event, a new series of 30-minute moderated interviews with notable alumni and respected thought leaders in the business, government and nonprofit arenas. At the February 11 event, founder and co-owner of Farmers Restaurant Group Dan Simons, (BBA ’92), discussed his philosophies on time management and entrepreneurship with interviewer Vivek Choudhury, Associate Dean for Strategic Initiatives at GWSB.

Howard University President Dr. Wayne A.I. Frederick was named the 2019 recipient of the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center Distinguished Alumni Award, an honor given to prominent individuals who’ve made distinguished contributions in their respective field. As a former trainee at the Cancer Center who completed his post-doctoral research and surgical oncology fellowships at MD Anderson, Dr. Frederick was selected from nominations received by the institution’s faculty. On May 7, Dr. Frederick delivered the Keynote Lecture to Fellows and faculty of MD Anderson for its 23rd Annual Trainee Research Day, speaking on the value of an MD Anderson trainee experience and how it can position one for a successful career. He also judged the Oral Competition.

University of Maryland President Wallace D. Loh will remain in his post through mid-2020 under a plan approved by the state flagship’s governing board in January. The Board also announced the appointment of Regent Gary L. Attman, a businessman and UMD graduate, to chair a presidential search committee. President Loh voiced enthusiasm for the plan in a statement, “With all of Maryland’s supporters, I look forward to what we will accomplishment together.”

On July 1, Howard University President Wayne Frederick assumed the chairmanship of the Consortium Board of Trustees. His Vice-Chair, George Mason University Ángel Cabrera withdrew his name when he was appointed the President of George Tech. A discussion about a new Consortium Vice Chair will take place at the September meeting of the Board. (For more on President Cabrera’s new appointment, see above.)

GOLD STARS

George Washington University’s Institute for Public Diplomacy and Global Communication (IPDGC) presented its 2019 Walter Roberts Award to Senator Patrick Leahy, (D-VT), in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the field of public diplomacy through his active participation, advocacy and legislative support for telling America’s story to the world. IPDGC Director Janet Steele presented the award at a ceremony celebrating Senator Leahy at the Dirksen Senate Office Building on March 5. School of Media and Public Affairs Director Frank Sesno; U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Education and Cultural Affairs Marie Royce; U.S. Agency for Global Media CEO John Lansing; and Vermont Council on World Affairs CEO Patricia Patterson made remarks.
Thomas LaToza, Assistant Professor in **George Mason University’s Department of Computer Science** won a CAREER Award from the National Science Foundation for his research proposal on debugging software problems. Researchers will use LaToza’s findings to create new techniques and tools to help developers record and share how they see code enabling them to work more efficiently. The new tools will benefit users too, “because they will be less frustrated dealing with software that doesn’t work as it should,” LaToza said.

**Catholic University**’s Office of Marketing and Communications has been honored with Accolades Awards from Region II of the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) including:

- A Gold Award in Staff Writing for three staff writers for five articles that appeared in *The Catholic University of America Magazine* including material written by Senior Writer Katie Bahr (2 articles); Director of Creative Services Ellen N. Woods (2 articles); and Director of Communications Catherine Lee (1 article). All award-winning articles appeared in the summer 2016 edition of the magazine;
- A Silver Award in the category of Student Recruitment Packages for the university’s viewbook, admit pack and road piece put together by Senior Graphic Designer Kristin Reavey and the staff in the Offices of Admission and Marking and Communications; and
- A Bronze Ward for Publications Design by Kristin Reavey for the 2016-17 music season brochure.

On March 21, **American University** held its 2019 Wonk of the Year event at Bender Arena, hosted by the Kennedy Political Union at Bender Arena. The event featured former Ohio governor and congressman, and presidential candidate John Kasich who spoke about his political experiences and bipartisanship. He told the students that his political career was launched from a cot at an AU fraternity house. “No silos. Don’t lock yourself in. You’re young. You got the whole world in front of you, and I want you to take advantage of it in every way that you can,” he told the crowd. **AU’s ‘Wonk of the Year’ honor is given to individuals who are smart, passionate, focused, and engaged and who use these attributes to enact meaningful change.**

**Georgetown University** announced faculty awards during Fall Faculty Convocation held in October. Among the awardees were:

- Professor Kate Withy of the **Department of Philosophy**; Professor Louise Hipwell of the **Department of Italian**; and Professor Jennifer Woolard of the **Department of Psychology**. All of them received the Dean’s Award for Excellence in Teaching from **Georgetown College** Dean Chris Celenza. The three professors were rewarded individually for their characteristics as “dedica[ted] to the craft of teaching” (Professor Withy); being the “kindest and most knowledgeable professor;” (Professor Hipwell); and “dedication to pedagogic innovation” (Professor Woolard); and
- Lisa Heinzerling, the Justice William J. Brennan, Jr. Professor of Law who specializes in administrative and environmental law; and Chandan Vaidya, Professor and Chair of the Psychology Department, received the prestigious President’s Awards for Distinguished Scholar-Teachers. **Georgetown** Provost Robert Groves described the awards as recognizing excellence in both research accomplishments and teaching effectiveness. (For more about the Faculty Convocation, see Academic Affairs.)
**George Mason University** Assistant Professor Charlotte Gill and Professor Jeff Offutt were named winners of the 2019 Outstanding Faculty Awards given by the State Council for Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV). Gill is a leader in the field of criminology whose work combines high-impact practices in undergraduate education. She is the Director of Mason’s Master’s Program in Software Engineering.

**Georgetown University** chemistry professor Karah Knope, who researches nuclear energy elements, was one of 84 early career scientists at universities and national laboratories who received an Early Career Award from the U.S. Department of Energy. The award honors outstanding tenure-track researchers who received their PhD’s within the last ten years. It comes with a $150,000 grant each year for five years to cover salary and research expenses. Dr. Knope researches heavy elements, a group of radioactive elements whose properties are key to nuclear energy. Dr. Knope says she plans to use the grant to help fund graduate students’ research in her lab.

Camille Nelson, Dean of American University’s Washington College of Law, was named among the Top 35 Women in Higher Education by Diverse: Issues in Higher Education magazine. Nelson is the only law school dean on the list that features 11 university and college presidents, several vice presidents and provosts, and the President of the Association of American Colleges and Universities among other exceptional professors and administrators.

Mohamed Zayani, professor at Georgetown University in Qatar, received four awards from leading academic and professional associations for his book, *Networked Publics and Digital Contention* (Oxford University Press, 2015), which explores how technologies can reconfigure social movements. The recognition comes atop the many favorable reviews the book has garnered since its publication. The book won “The Global Communication and Social Change Best Book Award” from the International Communication Association (ICA) and the “Sue DeWine Distinguished Award for a Scholarly Book” from the U.S. National Communication Association (NCA). It also won two other awards from the American Sociological Association and the Association of Global South Studies.

Howard University’s Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Tashni-Ann Dubroy, Ph.D., and Board of Trustees Member Leslie D. Hale were honored by the Washington Business Journal as 2019 Minority Business Leader Award recipients. The Washington Business Journal recognizes the top minority business owners and leaders in the community—recognizing entrepreneurial drive, creativity, and success. Both women previously appeared in the Business Journal’s 40 Under 40 list.

Padmanabhan Seshaiyer, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs in the George Mason University College of Science, was recognized by Vrije Universiteit Brussel with the title of Doctor Honoris Causa, an honor given to an elite cadre of “committed scientists who transcend the boundaries of their own disciplines and to personalities that have been at the frontiers of societal change.” Seshaiyer has been leading a multidisciplinary effort to connect science to societal problems in hopes of effecting positive change.
Lucile Adams-Campbell, PhD, Professor of Oncology and Associate Director for Minority Health and Health Disparities Research at Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center, was named a 2018 Washingtonian of the Year by the Washingtonian Magazine. According to the magazine, the annual honor is bestowed on individuals who contribute to the city’s health, welfare, community service and cultural richness and have made significant, measurable contributions to making Washington DC a great place to live. To combat health disparity among African Americans, Dr. Adams-Campbell has overseen the delivery of cancer screenings to more than 16,000 women throughout Washington, DC since 2004. As part of the effort, the Lombardi Center has provided culturally sensitive patient navigation and health education to minority women.

Several Consortium member faculty members were named Fulbright Scholars including:

- At American University where Professor of Literature Richard C. Sha was selected as a Fulbright Scholar to Italy for the 2019-20 academic year. His latest book, Imagination and Science in Romanticism, was also chosen by the International Conference on Romanticism to receive the Jean-Pierre Barricelli Prize for best book in the field of Romanticism;
- At the University of the District of Columbia where:
  - Associate Dean of Academic Affairs LaShanda T. Adams, was named a Fulbright Scholar by the Australian-American Fulbright Commission. Dean Adams, who is also a UDC Law professor, will conduct an intensive three-month comparative study at the Australian Centre for Child Protection of South Australian and American efforts to reorient child protection systems toward early intervention and family support services. Dean Adams joined the UDC Law faculty in 2009 after 10 years of representation of children and families at leading public interest organizations; and
  - Dr. Mathew Richardson, was named a Fulbright Scholar to Barbados. Richardson will embark on a groundbreaking study designed to test out the ways in which waste can be recycled that will not only reduce the ills associated with landfills but may contribute to sustainable agriculture. The study will examine the impact of green waste mulch (GWM), which will be used to increase the nutrition of the soil instead of sitting in landfills thereby enriching increasing the nutritional value of food. Dr. Richardson is the Assistant Director for Urban Agriculture Research in UDC’s Center for Urban Agriculture and Gardening Education and the PSM coordinator of the PSM concentration in urban agriculture; and
- At George Mason University where Meggan Ford, Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Academic Affairs in the School of Business was awarded a Fulbright U.S. International Education Administrators grant. Earlier this year, Dean Ford traveled to India to study higher education as part of the International Education Administrators Seminar in March. The dean was one of only twelve individuals selected for this award.

Campus News

Consortium members have been appearing on some prestigious lists including:

- Howard University:
  - whose business school was ranked 67th by US News and World Reports;
whose graduate schools, according to the Survey of Earned Doctorates (SED), were found to outperform peer institutions in:

- representation of women receiving Ph.D.’s;
- representation of research doctorates reporting interdisciplinary dissertation research;
- higher starting salaries of STEM doctorates; and
- diversity of PhD recipients;

**George Mason University:**

- which was ranked among the top schools in the nation for its high percentage of women earning undergraduate degrees in engineering according to the *Chronicle of Higher Education*. The *Chronicle* surveyed 253 public colleges and universities for the percentage of women who earned undergraduate degrees during the 2016-17 academic year. Mason was ranked 31st in engineering with 23 percent of Mason’s engineering graduates being women; and

**The George Washington University:**

- which was recognized by the *Chronicle of Higher Education* as one of the top producers of Fulbright students. GW had 11 undergraduate and graduate students who won Fulbright awards for the 2018-2019 year;

**American University:**

- whose *School of Public Affairs* climbed four spots to No. 14 among 285 schools of its kind in the *U.S. News & World Report*’s 2020 Public Affairs Graduate Schools Rankings;
o whose **Washington College of Law** received top rankings for diversity, international law, and environmental law in the Winter 2019 edition of *PreLaw Magazine*;

- **Georgetown University:**
  o whose business school was identified as having the best-trained and most creative MBA students in the country and for providing a diverse and entrepreneurial space for them. The ranking was based on a *Bloomberg Businessweek* survey which reported that recruiters gave high marks across the board to the **McDonough School of Business**. The school was also rated the top-ranked business school in Greater Washington according to the *US News and World Report*'s 2020 rankings. **McDonough** was ranked no. 24 overall and no. 12 for its part-time MBA program in the survey; and
  o whose campus was classified by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education as an institution with “very high research activity;” and
- **The University of Maryland** whose **Smith School of Business** was ranked No. 40 by the *US News and World Report*.

On January 15, **American University** unveiled its new five-year strategic plan, *Changemakers for a Changing World*. The plan represents AU’s commitment to its mission “to advance knowledge, foster intellectual curiosity, build community, and empower lives of purpose, service, and leadership.” **AU President Sylvia Burwell** said of the plan that “In American University’s DNA is the importance of making positive impact in the world. We are taking that core of who we are and applying it to a world of change, opportunity and challenge.”

**Marymount University** has adopted a new Strategic Plan entitled “Momentum” for 2019-2024. It is based on the university’s vision as a leading Catholic university that plans to be nationally recognized for innovation and commitment to student success, alumni achievement, and faculty and staff excellence. **Marymount** plans over the next five years to:

- Enroll 10,000 students in undergraduate and graduate programs;
- Have first college acceptance rate of less than 70%;
- Improve first college yield to over 30%;
- Retain over 90% of entering first college and transfer students;
- Double four-year graduation rate to 80%;
- Lead peers in student reports of High Impact Practices (HIPs) on the NSSE;
- Be recognized as a Carnegie Community Engagement Institution, an Ashoka Changemaker Campus, a school promoting social mobility by Times Higher Education (THE), and a leader in the Fulbright Scholars Program;
- Achieve a Research II (High Research Activity) designation by Carnegie Classification system;
- Receive donations from over one quarter of its alumni annually;
- Expand the number of people giving annually to 10,000 donors;
- Offer faculty and staff salaries in the top quartile of their fields;
- Double non-enrollment revenue to 6% of the operating budget;
- Develop and implement a new Campus Masterplan; and
• Ensure efficient and effective operations via best-of-breed, state of the art, cloud-based technology (WorkDay). (For more on the Strategic Plan, see Spotlight: Presidents.)

Throughout the spring, new building projects were underway on many Consortium member campuses including:

• At Georgetown University:
  o The acquisition of new property – 500 First Street NW in Washington, DC – which will help Georgetown expand its presence on Capitol Hill; bring new opportunities for students, faculty and staff across its campuses; and complete an entire city block of Georgetown properties; and
  o The restoration of Wisconsin Avenue’s Holy Rood Cemetery, including repairs to existing infrastructure and new enhancements to landscaping, the roadway and the cemetery entrance in partnership with Georgetown Holy Trinity Catholic Church is underway;

• At Catholic University, change is either happening or going to happen shortly including:
  o The renovation of Maloney Hall. This 103 year old building was the former Martin Maloney Chemical Laboratory. It was recently renovated and will now house the Busch School of Business. The renovations paid homage to the past while taking the building into the future with state of the art design and technology;
  o A new dining hall which is planned to offer considerably more seating than the current student restaurant; a greater variety of new station options; and a greater diversity of fresh food products; and
  o The installation of a new university walkway on the road from John McCormack Drive near the Metro past Pangborn Hall. The new walkway will replace a vehicular drive, enhancing the increasing pedestrian character of the campus and sense of welcome. Adding to the welcoming effect, a new stone gateway inscribed with the university’s name and motto is being installed at the base of the walkway, directly opposite the metro;

• At Howard University, where a development team was selected for Howard’s highly competitive Bond Bread / Washington Railway & Electric Company (WRECO) Project located across from Howard University Hospital. The university’s Board of Trustees approved plans to enter into exclusive negotiations with EDENS, Fivesquares Development and Menkiti Group (The Bond Partnership) to reimagine the 2.2-acre project into a 600,000 square foot mixed-use hub of activity. The university received more than 20 responses to a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the project; and

• At Marymount University, where the university has acquired The Rixey Apartments building located at 1008 North Glebe Road in Arlington. The building will provide housing to students, faculty and staff from Marymount as well as potentially other students from Consortium member institutions. An innovation in campus student housing, the Rixey’s location allows the building to function as an integrated living/learning neighborhood and the diverse mix of residents opens doors for networking and collaboration for all. This new acquisition further cements Marymount as an anchor of the Arlington community.
Two George Mason University projects are bolstering the university’s vision of inclusion—a memorial to honor the enslaved people of George Mason; and a building on the SciTech Campus in Manassas, Va., named for trailblazing African American mathematician Katherine Johnson. Mason President Ángel Cabrera said the two projects support the university’s mission as an innovative and inclusive academic community and enable Mason to “evolve in our symbols to be true to that vision of inclusion.” (For more on President Cabrera, see Spotlight: Presidents.)

Trinity Washington University launched a completely new website in January, featuring “Profiles of Success” – Trinity graduates excelling in a wide range of careers, and a new presentation of Trinity’s academic programs focused around career paths.

Over several meetings, Georgetown University’s Board of Directors made a variety of moves:

- At its Fall Meeting, the Board welcomed seven new members and approved plans for a new Master’s Degree in Global Infectious Disease. (For more on this degree, see Academic Affairs);
- At its Winter Meeting, it approved university policies on weapons, rank and tenure, changed a department name and approved new medical school programs; and
- In February, it approved a five-year, $75-million deferred maintenance plan that will triple the budget for such projects in the first year and will increase the annual budget 500 percent in year five.

American University announced the results of the first year of the university’s Plan for Inclusive Excellence—a comprehensive blueprint for building a truly inclusive community. The goals of the Plan were to increase and support diversity, equity, and inclusion on campus and beyond. The Year 1 Report found that:

- On Goal 1—Training Leadership and Development—AU had enhanced training, learning and development opportunities available to faculty, staff, students and university leadership; and
- On Goal 2—Campus Climate, Culture and Community—in the spring of 2018, the university launched the first round of inclusive excellence mini-grants offered to all members of the AU community including faculty, staff, students and alumni.

The university plans additional measures as well including the implementation of a holistic evaluation tool for measuring success; the deepening of the focus on research; the administration of a staff and faculty campus climate survey; the enhancement of accessibility campus wide; the broadening of student engagement; and the engagement of the broader community to build out the next five years of the Plan.

In response to DOE’s November issuance of regulations relating to Title IX, Georgetown University submitted comments in January urging the department to adopt regulations that will encourage reporting; accountability; promote safety and access to resources; and ensure equitable and fair grievance procedures in cases involving sexual misconduct. The comments were the culmination of 12 listening sessions with students, faculty, and staff across Georgetown’s undergraduate and graduate campuses. As part of the effort, Georgetown launched a second Sexual Assault and Misconduct Climate Survey allowing the university to examine the prevalence
and incidence of sexual assault and the many attitudes among students about the campus climate regarding sexual assault and knowledge of university resources. The university had one of the highest participation rates in the country during the first survey in 2016;

In March, **Howard University** announced the 2019 Homecoming dates, scheduled for October 5-13, 2019. The Homecoming football game against Norfolk State will take place on Saturday, October 12. Homecoming will include fan-favorites such as Bison Day of Service, Call to the Chapel, Bison Madness and the Homecoming Jazz Brunch.

**GREEN CAMPUS**

**George Mason University** has formerly launched a multidisciplinary institute to tackle one of the toughest issues facing the world—its future. The **Institute for a Sustainable Earth** will have more than 500 faculty members to address all aspects of the Earth’s future, including the problem of global climate change. The Institute will draw on Mason’s deep talent from a number of disciplines to conduct research; meet with policymakers; and leverage existing university partnerships with governments, non-profits and the private sector to make change. Scholars will share the results of their work with key policymakers and decision makers in the hopes of erasing the divide often seen between academia and the real world by jointly devising lasting sustainability remedies.

**American University** was recognized in March by Second Nature, an organization dedicated to acceleration of climate action on college campuses and across public sectors. At the 2019 Higher Education Climate Leadership Summit, Second Nature honored AU for being the first urban campus, large institution, and research university to achieve carbon neutrality.

A new fund named after Pope Francis’ groundbreaking Encyclical on the Environment will support **Georgetown University** faculty, students and staff in pursuing projects designed to strengthen the university community’s response to global and local sustainability challenges. Each successive project proposal must advance positive outcomes through activities in research, education, institutional action, or engagement. The new Laudato Si’ Fund grants were awarded in spring 2019 with project completion expected before the end of the 2020 academic year.

**Catholic University’s** Energy Project continues to snake its way through campus. The project is replacing below-grade piping to provide hot and chilled water service to all buildings on the south end of campus. It will enable utilities to be delivered in a more cost effective and sustainable manner.

Faye Al Saadoon and Camille Bangug were named Campus Directors for the **Georgetown University** Millennium Fellow Class of 2018. The two student leaders are among 530 young people from over 30 campuses and 13 nations who are participating in the Millennium Campus Network this year. Each was chosen to elevate undergraduate leadership with their sustainable development-related projects to advance UN Sustainable Development Goals:

- Bengun, an international politics major from Long Island, New York is working to advance partnerships (UN Sustainable Goal #17) through her work with **Georgetown Global**
Consulting, a nonprofit student organization performing pro-bono consulting for NGO’s and microfinance institutions around the world; and

- Al Saadoon is working on a book that examines how women are perceived and judged on their religion, politics, societal expectations and more.

The two students led the first-ever virtual Millennium Fellows Graduation on November 28 with fellows from all over the world. The ceremony featured distinguished speakers joining remotely including Princess Beatrice of York; Ramu Demodarian, Chief of United Nations Academic Impact; and Sam Vaghar, Executive Director of Millennium Campus Network.

George Mason University’s Center for Climate Change Communications conducted its first “Climate Change in the American Mind” survey in 2008. With 10 years of data, the Center can pinpoint how attitudes are shifting. In 2008, seven out of 10 Americans believed global warming was happening. That number is still true today. The difference, the research shows, is that Americans are much more confident in their convictions that global warming is occurring.

Consortium members held several environmentally-minded events including:

- At The Catholic University:
  - where its School of Engineering (Engineering Center for Care of Earth (ECCE)) hosted a Climate Change Workshop in April. The event, co-hosted by the Universita Politecnica delle Marche, Ancona, Italy, featured a day full of lecturers and prominent speakers including: Dr. David Titley, Director of Center for Solutions to Weather and Climate Risk, Penn State University; the late bioethicist Cardinal Elio Sgreccia, President of the Pontifical Academy for Life, Director of the international medical ethics journal Medicina e Morale; former Maryland Governor Martin O’Malley; and Edward Yim, Esq, Energy Policy Advisor, DC Dept. of Energy and Environment among others; and
  - Also in April, where the CUA Institute for Policy Research, National Catholic School of Social Service and Georgetown University Law Center Campus Ministry in conjunction with the Center for Promotion of Health and Mental Health Well-Being and Jesuit Refugee Services/USA held an Environmental Justice Symposium. The discussion focused on the latest climate science, its human impacts, and urgently needed responses; and

- At American University where its Men’s Basketball Team hosted its annual Sustainability Game Night on February 13, which celebrates and represents (via the Athletic Department) AU’s commitment to maintaining its status as a carbon neutral campus. While the team grappled with Loyola, Maryland’s team on the court, off-court, the university hosted a Sustainability Fair prior to the game and manned trash bins with Sustainability Educators directing fans to place their waste in the proper stream. During the game, AU recognized its Zero Waste Compost Team for its work; displayed trivia questions about sustainability on the Jumbotron; and held sustainability-themed games on court. All students were welcome for free. Discounted tickets were sold to faculty and staff.
This past academic year, Georgetown University welcomed 1,620 students to its Class of 2022. Nearly 23,000 students—the most ever—applied for a seat in the class. Here are some of their stories:

- Undergraduate, graduate, medical and law students participated in Georgetown traditions at the start of the academic year including:
  - the Welcome Back Jack! BBQ;
  - the Mass of the Holy Spirit; and
  - The New Student Convocation which was keynoted by Emilio Joubert (C’19) who won the prestigious McTighe Prize even though he struggled in high school. His message to the incoming class was to focus on “real-life superheroes.” In his case, it was his grandmother and the president of his high school who worked with him as he struggled with his studies. (For more on Mr. Joubert, see Spotlight Students);

- Georgetown Entrepreneurship named its eighth annual cohort of Entrepreneurs-in-Residence. The 18 entrepreneurs included eight Georgetown alumni; ten company founders or co-founders; five CEO’s two venture capitalists; and one technology and start-up expert;

- Students from more than 130 countries arrived on campus, many bringing a unique perspective. Some discussed their rationale for choosing Georgetown including connections with alumni, family members, and friends. Georgetown’s Office of Global Services (OGS) helps students navigate federal and university-level regulations as well as personal hurdles that arise as a result of being an international student;

- First-year medical students were separated into small groups to enable them to more easily grow comfortable with the Anatomy Program. Each small group was assigned a deceased human body, or cadaver, to work with throughout the duration of Gross Anatomy Lab, which spans into their Second Year. The group dissected the assigned cadaver as a team;

- Georgetown’s Pivot Program launched with the goal of preparing participants—District residents released from local correctional facilities who show strong potential to become successful leaders and role models in their community—for positions as both entrepreneurial leaders and productive employees. The Pivot Program represents a collaboration among Georgetown’s Prisons and Justice Initiative, Georgetown College and the McDonough School of Business with the support from the Mayor’s Office of Returning Citizen Affairs and a $400,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Employment Services which supports stipends to the participants;

- In a related story, nine returning citizens are on track to get paid work as paralegals at local law firms after being trained at Georgetown thanks to a partnership with DC Mayor’s Office on Returning Citizen Affairs (MORCA) Paralegal Fellowship Program. The graduates were celebrated and congratulated on January 16 by Mayor Muriel Bowser, the president of the American Bar Association, and Georgetown leaders including Vice President Joe Ferrara and School of Continuing Studies Dean Kelly Otter and others. MORCA is directed by Brian Ferguson (C’18), a Georgetown alumnus, who was wrongfully incarcerated for homicide and exonerated after serving 11 years of a life sentence (For more on Ferguson, see Spotlight: Student);
Eighteen newly hired Metropolitan Police Department officers and staff completed Georgetown Law's inaugural program to help them better understand the community they serve and prepare them to become leaders in innovative policing. The first cohort participated in intensive workshops addressing a range of issues including implicit bias; the use of force; children caught up in the criminal justice system; over-criminalization; homelessness; and poverty;

The Institute of Politics and Public Service (GU Politics) at the McCourt School of Public Policy admitted a Spring 2019 Fellows class including:

- Paulette Aniskoff, Political Advisor to President Barack Obama who formerly directed the White House Office of Public Engagement;
- Jonathan Capehart, Opinion Writer, the Washington Post and MSNBC Contributor;
- Antonia Ferrier, Partner, Definers Public Affairs and Former Staff Director, Senate Republican Communications Center;
- Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Member of Congress (R-FL) and Former Chair, House Foreign Relations Committee;
- Dan Sena, Executive Director, Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee; and

In January, Georgetown welcomed 60 new students – first-years and transfers – during its first Spring Semester New Student Welcome Ceremony. The new class of students was equally divided between the genders; came from 18 states and the District of Columbia; represented eight foreign countries including China, Columbia, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Spain and Taiwan; and identified with 12 religions. Transfer students among the new class came from 49 other institutions of higher learning as a result of the university’s commitment to attracting and supporting students who begin their college pursuits elsewhere. Georgetown Provost Robert Groves welcomed the group by saying “Each of you belong here.”

At the beginning of Spring Semester, George Washington University made several announcements:

- On January 14, GW announced that its New Student Orientation would occur in August instead of throughout June and July. In addition, GW announced plans to redesign the orientation program during the spring to better integrate first-year and transfer students and their families into the university community.
- On January 15, GW President Thomas LeBlanc sent a message via GW Today welcoming the GW community back to campus. He included updates on the first-ever university holiday break between Christmas and New Year’s Day and on the progress of the strategic initiatives; and
- On March 25, GW announced that more than 27,000 applicants applied for undergraduate admission for Academic Year 2019-2020. GW admitted about 11,000 students total to the Class of 2023, and the Office of Undergraduate Admissions expects to enroll a first-year class of about 2,550 students. Regular decision application notifications went out on March 21.

At January’s Winter Graduation 2019 Ceremonies, Trinity Washington University conferred more than 200 undergraduate and graduate degrees. Nicole Lynn Lewis, Founder and CEO of Generation Hope, received an honorary degree, and gave inspiring remarks as the keynote speaker.
American University unveiled several new programs with robust participation including:

- The Sine Institute of Policy and Politics which announced its inaugural class of Fellows on January 18. The class includes Abdul El-Sayed, former Executive Director of the Detroit Health Department and former candidate for governor of Michigan; Bill Haslam, outgoing governor of Tennessee; William Kristol, political analyst and founder of the Weekly Standard; Ruth Marcus, political commentator and columnist for the Washington Post; and Karen Zacarías, playwright and founder of Young Playwrights’ Theater and Latinx Theater Commons; and

- AU and Politico announced the 2019 class of the Politico Journalism Institute, an educational initiative dedicated to diversifying Washington-area newsrooms. This year’s class is the largest yet, comprised of 16 students from public and private universities and colleges throughout the U.S.

Four Georgetown University professors teamed up to teach a 10-week one-credit course exploring questions around the first-generation experience while equipping students with the skills to navigate their first year. Entitled “Mastering the Hidden Curriculum,” the initiative was designed to identify first-generation faculty and staff; build on the university’s existing efforts to cultivate a first-generation support network; and bridge the gap between faculty and staff and students. Program co-chair Lahra Smith said it is important for first-generation faculty to share their experience with first-generation students.

On April 12, The Catholic University of America hosted its Odyssey Day for accepted students. The prospective Class of 2023 was invited to explore CUA including its academic programs, extracurricular activities, and campus buildings. The event also included time for students to socialize with future classmates, allowing all who attended to explore their new home together.

The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts is partnering with Consortium members to provide richer student experiences including:

- At George Washington University where GW’s Student Experience team created the District Connections program to help first-year students connect and engage with the city of Washington, DC. Students in the program signed up for weekly cultural and intellectual activities around the District led by GW faculty, staff and students. Activities included a tour of the Supreme Court and tickets to performances at the Kennedy Center and Arena Stage; and

- At Georgetown University where Georgetown College, the Georgetown Humanities Initiative and the Designing the Future Initiative worked with the Kennedy Center to create the Georgetown Kennedy Center Seminar Series which includes free tickets for students to Kennedy Center events, post-performance conversations with creative artists and faculty, and a competitive fellowship program. (For more on the Georgetown-Kennedy Center collaboration, see First Jobs and Internships.)
Catholic University’s Metropolitan School of Professional Studies (MSPS) has agreed to accept credits from 16 courses offered by Saylor Academy. The Metropolitan School of Professional Studies (MSPS) through an agreement with Saylor Academy that will enable CUA undergraduate students, on a limited basis, to take online courses developed and provided by Saylor Academy to assist in degree completion. Registration at Saylor Academy is free, and all course materials are provided as part of the course package. The only costs to the student are their time and a small fee.

Trinity Washington University announced in early April a new Master of Public Health degree program through the School of Nursing and Health Professions. The new program, which will enroll students in fall 2019, offers concentrations in: Community Health; Global Health Leadership; and Public Health Crisis Communication.

Georgetown University has launched or is planning to launch new academic programs:

- This past fall, Georgetown collaborated with edX.org, a leading online learning destination, to launch a free online course, “How the Government Works & How to Get Involved.” Led by expert Georgetown faculty, the Massive Online Open Course (MOOC) drew upon the university’s strengths in government and public policy and drew on the edX platform to extend opportunity across the country;
- Next fall, the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences plans to offer two new master’s programs:
  - The new interdisciplinary Master of Science in Environmental Metrology and Policy degree will be taught by Georgetown faculty members as well as experts from the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). It will teach students to measure and analyze potential hazardous substances in the earth’s atmosphere or on its surface so they can make appropriate environmental policy. It will be offered nights and weekends starting fall semester 2019. The new two-year program is the first of its kind in the United States; and
  - The new Master of Science in Global Infectious Disease (GLID) will uniquely offer specific in-depth training in infectious disease modeling and science policy. Students will be offered two concentrations—the infectious disease modeling track or the science policy track. Both tracks include a year-long core course consisting of a series of modules, each led by faculty with diverse specialties as well as an internship of a government agency, NGO or think tank; and
- In January, the McDonough School of Business launched two new online degrees including:
  - a new Master’s in Management Degree focused on Business Foundations, Technology and Innovations; and
  - a new accelerated 11-month Master of Science in Management program for recent graduates looking to supplement their bachelor’s degree with the business acumen and technology skills to succeed in a variety of industries.

The George Washington University Elliott School of International Affairs has developed a new Bachelor of Science Degree in International Affairs to meet the growing demand for STEM
skills by international affairs practitioners in today’s industries. Building on the same core curriculum found in the Elliott School’s Bachelor of Arts program, the Bachelor of Science in International Affairs program integrates additional, advanced STEM training to give students an edge when navigating the increasingly science- and tech-dependent landscape of 21st century global affairs.

**Trinity Washington University**’s Master’s Degree Programs in Clinical Mental Health Counseling and School Counseling both received accreditation from the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Programs (CACREP) in February—an important step forward for these programs that prepare professional counselors for a wide range of settings. As the first CACREP accreditation, the certification is a significant achievement since many employers today require their counselors to be graduates of CACREP approved schools. **Trinity’s** established program in counseling offers two graduate degrees through the School of Education—A Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling and a Master of Arts in School Counseling.

The 2019 National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Jazz Master Abdullah Ibrahim conducted a Master Class at Howard University on April 16. Ibrahim is recipient of a 2019 NEA Jazz Masters Fellowship, the nation’s highest honor in jazz. A pianist and composer, Mr. Ibrahim shared his gifts with all those who showed up for the event. The master class was part of the 2019 NEA Jazz Masters events which included a listening party of Jazz Masters at NPR Headquarters and an NEA Jazz Masters Tribute Concert at the Kennedy Center.

**Georgetown University** Professor of Management Robert Bies says he can never underestimate the talent and genius of undergraduates at Georgetown. Through his “Imagination and Creativity” course he helps undergraduates develop their talent and apply it in producing innovative solutions in hands-on projects. Over the course of a semester, students brainstorm solutions to problems posed by the class’s partners; develop a working proposal; modify the proposal through feedback; and finally create a step-by-step plan that is ready for implementation. Among the project the students worked on was improved outreach for the Campus Ministry ESCAPE program; an overnight retreat for first-year and transfer students; and, with AARP to help market it, an app designed to maintain cognitive ability among the elderly.

**George Mason University**’s ADVANCE transfer program with Northern Virginia Community College plans to offer more than 100 degree pathways in fall 2019, five times as many as currently offered in the inaugural year of the program. Currently, there are 21 ADVANCE pathways, aligning degree programs and student services for more than 300 students. **Mason** expects ADVANCE to add another 200 students in the next academic year across dozens of majors. ADVANCE students can reduce the time and cost of earning a four-year degree, saving as much as $15,000. (For more on the ADVANCE program, see Campus Support).

**Trinity Washington University**’s Baccalaureate Nursing Program received full approval from the District of Columbia Board of Nursing (the Board) in December 2018 as a result of **Trinity’s** achievement of a first-time NCLEX pass rate of 82.6--well above the required threshold of 80%. In announcing the news, **Trinity President Pat McGuire** congratulated several academic leaders for this achievement, including Dr. Denise Pope, Associate Dean of Nursing and Chief Nursing Officer; the dedicated nursing faculty; and Dr. Mary Romanello, Dean of the School of Nursing and Health Professions. This achievement represents many years of hard work by **Trinity’s**
academic team in nursing as they revised the entire curriculum, revamped all pedagogies and practices, implemented more stringent admission and degree completion standards, and focused on ensuring that Trinity students are prepared to pass NCLEX, which is the gateway for nursing licensure.

Georgetown Law continues to offer innovative classes:
- Professor Anthony Cook took his summer 2018 Community Development Seminar students on a field trip to an empty lot across from a brand-name hotel and luxury apartment building. Cook is looking for a site for his planned low-middle-and high-income apartment community with an “incubator” for educational, employment, entrepreneurial and other initiatives for underserved communities. The field trip was designed to teach students about the challenges of building a community like GateBridge. “I love the idea of entrepreneurship education, broadly defined,” Cook noted, talking about the class; and
- Professor Alicia Pierhoples with Virginia Delegate Jennifer Carroll Foy taught “Campaigning for Public Office,” with Adjunct Professor Zakiya Thomas. The course was offered during the fall and designed for 20 students. Forty showed up. The course focused on the “nitty-gritty of campaigning with classes on developing a brand, building a base and developing a five-to 10-year plan. Also on the syllabus—sessions on ethics, fundraising, campaign finance, election laws, conducting opposition research, debating and more.

George Mason University is among the first institutions in the region to launch a digital certification program, which will ensure that all students regardless of their majors, have the digital skills needed to compete in today’s workforce. The new credential is being championed by the Greater Washington Partnership, a civic alliance of CEOs in the region, through its Collaborative of Leaders in Academia and Business Consortium (CoLab). CoLab is comprised of a group of 12 universities and 14 leading companies that work together to position the Capital Region as a leading global hub for innovation. The digital technology curriculum will allow students to develop the skills they need in today’s tech-driven economy while creating a broader talent pipeline for employers throughout the region.

U.S. Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden asked Georgetown University faculty to help expand information literacy during the 2018 Fall Faculty Convocation, held to celebrate the promotions of more than 30 professors on Main Campus, the Law Center and Medical Center. Hayden, the first woman and African American to hold the post, delivered the Aims of Education Address at the convocation. Also at the Convocation, Georgetown College Dean Chris Celenza presented the President’s Award for Distinguished Scholar Teacher and thirty other recognized faculty members covering all of Georgetown’s academic specialties from biology to theology. (For more on the Convocation, see Gold Stars.)

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Twelve Trinity Washington University students were selected to receive grants from Trinity to participate in the Summer 2019 Study Abroad program to expand their global experiences and enhance their academic studies. They will participate in programs around the world conducted through Trinity’s study abroad partner, CIEE (Council on International Educational Exchange). As part of the program, Trinity President Pat McGuire nominated two outstanding students
for special fellowships provided directly through CIEE (the CIEE Presidential Fellowship Awards). The Trinity Fellows are: Fozia Jafar ('22), a biology major in the College of Arts and Sciences, who will study in London; and Adonis Mokom ('22), a nursing major, who will also study in London.

Andrew Yeo, Associate Professor of Politics at Catholic University, hosted a seminar with a group of 18 students from Japan, Korea, and the U.S., as part of Japan-America Student Conference (JASC) and Korean-American Students Conference's (KASC) annual trilateral forum at the Columbus School of Law on January 4.

George Mason University welcomed its first Endangered Scholar—Ararat Osipian from Ukraine—as part of its participation in the New University in Exile Consortium. In agreeing to host at least one Endangered Scholar for a minimum of two years, Mason is one of 11 U.S. colleges and universities defending academic freedom. While at Mason, Osipian will continue his research at Mason’s Terrorism and Corruption Center. He will also teach two classes in fall 2019.

**First Jobs and Internships**

The George Washington University Spring 2019 Career & Internship Fair on January 25 and the 2019 GW Startup Career and Internship Fair on February 26 provided opportunities for GW students and alumni to network with organizations and startups from a variety of industries that are recruiting for full-time, part-time and internship positions.

More than 80 percent of George Mason University students earning undergraduate and graduate degrees in 2018 reported positive career outcomes within six months of graduation, achieving a university strategic goal to reach the benchmark for both groups. The specifics—86 percent of students who earned graduate degrees and 81 percent (three points higher than last year) of students who earned undergraduate degrees in 2018--reported the positive outcomes. Saskia Clay-Rooks, Executive Director for University Career Services, said the uptick in success reflects the quality of education Mason students receive, the professional and year-round internship and job opportunities in the area, and employers’ desire to tap into an academically prepared and diverse talent pool.

Georgetown University students will have the opportunity to join a new immersive downtown DC community next fall in which they intern during the day, take classes at night and explore issues related to living and working in the nation’s capital. The Capitol Applied Learning Lab (CALL) is expecting to launch in the fall of 2019 and will include experiential learning and residential space in close proximity to the Capitol for up to 30 students, whose integrated courses will be complemented by internships in public service, nonprofits and entrepreneurship. Students in the living-learning immersion program will engage directly with the city as they spend a full semester at the CALL.

During the Winter Break, 14 graduate and undergraduate George Washington University students traveled to San Francisco through Career Quest to learn about working and living in the Bay Area. Students visited companies such as Facebook and Airbnb and connected with alumni and
recruiters. This program is sponsored by University Career Services. Previous Career Quest city visits included New York and Los Angeles. Most of the program’s expenses, such as lodging, are covered through grant funding. Upcoming are a summer break trip to Boston and a fall break trip to New York.

**Georgetown University** senior Jonathan Picos has spent his college career planning for a career as a physician. His interests in research and community service were nurtured by his participation in the Translational Health Science Internship. The internship was based in Buenos Aires, Argentina during the summer of 2017 where for six weeks, Picos immersed himself in the country’s health care system by shadowing in pediatric hospitals and community health centers. He also worked in conjunction with Argentine researchers and physicians to study pediatric viral respiratory disease. He hopes to also participate in a gap year program before attending medical school once he graduates from Georgetown.

A select cohort of **Georgetown University** students were chosen as **Georgetown-Kennedy Center Seminar Scholars** in the fall of 2018. The students attended several Kennedy Center performances and post-performance discussions, participated in mentored writing and reflection projects, and served as a voice for the Scholars on campus. In addition, selected students received a $250 stipend for their participation. (For more on the Georgetown-Kennedy Center partnership, see Class Notes.)

The Free Speech Clinic in **George Mason University’s Antonin Scalia Law School** pairs students with lawyers working on actual cases in which free speech might have been infringed. Many cases are in areas currently underrepresented by free speech advocates, so students have the opportunity to make a real impact. In addition to working on cases, students benefit from networking opportunities and guest speakers.

The higher education market is adapting to a new reality. According to research from **Georgetown University’s Center on Education and the Workforce**, two-thirds of jobs in the United States will soon require education or training after high school—not necessarily a four-year degree but no less than an associate degree or certificate. These middle-skill jobs found in computer technology, health care, construction, advanced manufacturing and other specialties, account for 54 percent of the labor market, but, only 44 percent of the nation’s workers are sufficiently trained. In addition, many middle-skill jobs are currently filled by baby-boomers who are expected to retire soon. To meet this demand, many entrepreneurs have begun creating “boot camp-style” short courses for in-demand skills. It is likely that the higher education sector will follow suit.

**Sponsored Research**

**Georgetown University** announced in February the launch of a think tank focused on how technological advances in fields such as artificial intelligence are influencing national and international security. Backed by a $55 million grant from the San Francisco-based Open Philanthropy Project, the **Center for Security and Emerging Technology** will be based in the university’s **Walsh School of Foreign Service**. The Center’s director, Jason Matheny, was Director of Federal Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Activity from 2015 to 2018 and has
participated in government initiatives related to artificial intelligence. One issue the Center plans to study, according to Matheny, is the extent to which the nation’s artificial intelligence workforce depends on foreign citizens and how immigration policy affects that workforce. Another: How can companies, universities and governments protect information from theft and misuse? The grant is primarily funded by Silicon Valley entrepreneur Dustin Moskovitz and his wife, Cari Tuna. Moskovitz was a co-founder of Facebook.

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) awarded three grants totaling more than $7.4 million to George Washington University Department of Biomedical Engineering faculty. Igor Efimov, Emilia Entcheva and Matthew Kay are the principal investigators on the three grants which include:

- Dr. Efimov’s $2.5 million R01 grant which will address the project “High-Definition Conformal Electronics for VT/VF;”
- Dr. Entcheva’s $2.8 million grant—“Scalable platform for optimizing human cardiac tissue engineering via optical pacing and on-demand oxygenation,”—which includes GW faculty Dr. Kay and Zhenyu Li of the Department of Biomedical Engineering, and Anelia Horvath and Anastas Popratiloff of the School of Medicine and Health Sciences; and
- Dr. Kay’s $2.17 million R01 grant titled “Hypothalamic neuron activation to blunt myocardial remodeling during chronic sleep apnea.” David Mendelowitz of the School of Medicine and Health Sciences is the co-investigator on the grant.

NASA has invested nearly $7 million in an effort led by Sarah Johnson, Assistant Professor of Biology at Georgetown University, aimed at developing a new kind of extraterrestrial life detection system that could be used on Mars. Johnson’s interdisciplinary project called the Laboratory for Agnostic Biosignatures will use the grant over the next five years to plan for life detection for planetary systems. “Our goal,” said Professor Johnson, “is to go beyond what we currently understand and devise ways to find forms of life we can scarcely imagine.”

Recent reporting indicates that the rehabilitation robot market will grow dramatically, from $641 million in 2018 to $6.4 billion by 2025. Catholic University’s Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center (RERC) is poised to prepare students for this thriving field. In the fall of 2018, the School of Engineering received a $4.6 million grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to create RERC. Catholic University students — at both the undergraduate and graduate levels — are benefiting from this new center by being able to gain direct experience in developing rehabilitation robots and monitoring how they work on real patients.

Two George Washington University faculty members received National Science Foundation Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) program grants including:

- Ekundayo Shittu, Professor of Engineering Management, who was awarded a five-year, $500,000 grant for his project, “CAREER: Adaptive Investments into Resilient Electricity Infrastructure Systems.” His project will develop a decision support system to help government policymakers craft the incentives to advance public-private enterprise capital formation and investments into electricity infrastructure systems and provide strategies for self-organized power restoration in the event of a disruption. Inspired by the self-healing properties in biological systems such as morphogenesis (gene formation and adaptation to
environmental changes) and wound healing (functional changes in cells due to regeneration), this CAREER project will expand the paradigms of complex adaptive systems by incorporating realism and empirical data into models that have practical implications, such as how much to invest in a particular electricity technology portfolio in order to enhance system resilience; and

- Chung-Hyuk Park, Professor of Biomedical Engineering, who received a five-year, $429,000 CAREER grant for his project, “CAREER: Social Intelligence with Contextual Ambidexterity for Long-Term Human-Robot Interaction and Intervention (LT-HRI2).” The project aims to develop a novel socio-emotional human-robot interaction framework with contextual ambidexterity to answer the following question: How might we be able to develop intelligent socially-assistive robotic systems that can cope with the developmental processes as well as gender-specific characteristics of individuals with autism spectrum disorder? The knowledge gained through this project will be directly fused into educational activities for the future generation and for students from underrepresented groups to develop creative mindsets and analytic skills in science, technology, engineering, art and math (STEAM).

Through computer vision and machine learning, Robert Pless, the Patrick and Donna Martin Professor of Computer Science at George Washington University, developed a database of hotel photos that will help law enforcement investigating human trafficking cases better understand a suspect’s pattern of behavior. Using a database developed by Dr. Pless and his research team, law enforcement can take photographic evidence collected as part of an investigation and search for similar photos. Dr. Pless and his co-investigator from Temple University were recently awarded a two-year, $1 million grant from the Department of Justice which will allow them to refine the database and improve its ability to better identify background objects like lamps or shower curtains, improving the computer’s ability to differentiate locations.

Cynthia S. Dowd, Associate Professor of Chemistry in the George Washington University Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, received a $516,446 grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services/National Institutes of Health to develop novel, potent antitubercular and antimalarial agents by inhibiting the metabolic pathway of certain organic chemicals.

Nuala Margaret Cowan, Director of the GIS Certificate Program in the George Washington University Columbian College of Arts and Sciences Department of Geography, was awarded a $491,942 cooperative agreement from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to expand the YouthMappers University Consortium’s mission to build open spatial data for economic development and community resilience.

Andrei Afanasev, the Gus Weiss Associate Professor of Theoretical Physics in the George Washington University Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, received a $363,658 grant from the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command to study interactions of twisted light at sub-wavelength scales.

Oscar Barton Jr., Chair of the Department of Mechanical Engineering at George Mason University received a $265,000 grant from the U.S. Department of the Navy. The partnership pairs Mason and the Navy through science, technology, engineering and mathematics outreach.
activities designed to expose Mason students and faculty to a wide range of naval technical problems, while also aiding the Navy in its outreach to young people. Mason students, working on two capstone projects, will learn the necessity of working together while adhering to real-world deadlines and strict technical specifications.

Sylvain Guiriec, Assistant Professor of Physics in the George Washington University Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, was awarded a $65,144 grant from NASA for the development of the All-Sky Medium Energy Gamma-Ray Observatory (AMEGO), an astrophysics probe for exploring the sky.

Sarah Shomstein, a George Washington University Columbian College of Arts and Sciences Professor of Cognitive Neuroscience and head of GW’s Attention and Cognition Laboratory; and Andrew Collegio, former cognitive neuroscience graduate student in Columbian College’s Department of Psychology, discovered that people pay more attention to smaller objects compared to larger ones, and that prior knowledge of object size, not the perceived size, influences how our brains engage with objects. The two scientists hope these findings will help future researchers predict how effectively people process particular objects as they pay attention to the world around them. Paul Scotti, (BS ’17), and Joseph Nah, a Columbian College doctoral candidate, were also co-authors of this paper, which was supported by a National Science Foundation grant and published January 7 in the journal Nature Human Behavior.

**RESEARCH AND TECH**

Researchers at American University developed a new, highly sensitive, rapid genetic test that can determine whether bacteria carry a gene that causes resistance to two common antibiotics used to treat strep throat and respiratory illnesses. The research was published in BMC Infectious Diseases.

Women with heart attack symptoms treated by Emergency Medical Services (EMS) after a 911 call are less likely to receive aspirin; be resuscitated; or to be transported to a local hospital in an ambulance using lights and sirens, according to Melissa McCarthy, Professor of Health Policy and Management in the George Washington University Milken Institute School of Public Health and Emergency Medicine (Milken Institute SPH) at the School of Medicine and Health Sciences. Dr. McCarthy worked with a research team to examine the care that women and men with heart attack symptoms receive, using prehospital data collected from 46 states between 2010 and 2013. She found small but statistically significant findings in the type of care men and women receive that could have impacted thousands of patients. The study was published in Women’s Health Issues, the official journal of the Jacobs Institute of Women’s Health, which is based in Milken Institute SPH.

Georgetown University’s Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center (Lombardi) has been publishing important scientific findings including the following:

- The immunotherapy that has revolutionized the treatment of many cancers appears to offer similar benefits to patients living with HIV according to researchers. The study, published in *JAMA Oncology*, focused on whether a relatively new class of drugs called checkpoint inhibitors is both safe and effective in patients with advanced cancer who also live with
HIV. Dr. Chul Kim, an assistant professor at Lombardi, said he hopes the new study will encourage additional research into whether the same therapy can inhibit HIV infections as well as cancer;

- Following a study co-led by Lombardi researchers, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved new medication that, in combination with certain types of chemotherapy or initial treatment of extensive-stage small cell lung cancer (SCLC), can, for the first time, improve survival for people with the deadly disease. Small cell lung cancer makes up about 10 to 15 percent of all lung cancers in the U.S., almost all among former smokers. The research marks the end of numerous failed attempts to improve survival rates for people with this form of cancer, according to medical oncologist Stephen V. Liu, MD, a lung cancer specialist at Lombardi;

- All women diagnosed with breast cancer should be offered genetic testing for hereditary cancer according to the American Society of Breast Surgeons—a position emphasized by Lombardi professor of Medicine Claudine Isaacs. Dr. Isaacs stated that the new recommendation could be "impactful." However, Beth N. Peshkin, MS, Director of Cancer Genetic Counseling at Lombardi cautions that proper genetic counseling is a critical piece of genetic testing so that patients know how best to respond to their results. The jury is still out whether insurance companies will cover the broader genetic testing;

- The first large U.S. study of cognition in older breast cancer patients finds most women don’t experience cancer-related cognitive problems within the first two years after diagnosis and treatment, but a troubling trend involving chemotherapy and a specific gene may increase the risk of Alzheimer’s disease. Though further exploration is needed, the small subset in the study of women experiencing cognitive decline were unique in having that gene and the effect was most pronounced after chemotherapy. The findings were published in the Journal of Clinical Oncology by Lombardi’s Dr. Jeanne Mandleblatt; and

- To the great surprise of cancer researchers, a protein they investigated for its possible role in cancer turned out to be a powerful regulator of metabolism. The Lombard-lead study found that forced expression of this protein in a laboratory strain of obese mice showed a remarkable reduction of their fat mass despite a genetic predisposition to eat all the time. The study, published in Scientific Reports suggests that the protein FGFBP3 (BP3 for short) might offer novel therapy to reverse disorders associated with metabolic syndrome, such as type 2 diabetes and fatty liver disease. The treatment also reduced a number of obesity-related disorders in the mice, such as hyperglycemia—excess blood sugar that is linked to diabetes—and eliminated the fat in their once fatty livers, according to senior investigator Anton Wellstein, MD, PhD, a professor in oncology and pharmacology.

On February 13, Anne-Laure Papa, Professor of Biomedical Engineering at George Washington University, published research in Science Translational Medicine on a new reversible, drug-free antiplatelet therapy that can reduce the risk of blood clots and potentially prevent cancer metastasis.

George Mason University Professor Yuntao Wang was the lead scientist on a research team that identified a measurable indicator that could prove instrumental in the fight against HIV. The research focuses on cofilin, a key protein that regulates cells to mobilize and fight against the
infection. Cofilin dysfunction is a key factor in helper T cell defects, according to the research published in the journal *Science Advances*.

**Georgetown University** affiliated medical professionals continue to make astonishing scientific findings including:

- Findings from a novel online questionnaire of people with Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS) who rated their perceptions of care in a hospital’s Emergency Department (ED) which suggest the majority of these patients do not receive proper care according to *Georgetown University* researchers. The study, published in the journal *Open Access Emergency Medicine*, is the first to review the presentation of CFS in the emergency room. The findings highlight a "profound" lack of understanding by health care workers. The study points to new training for ED staff and for physicians to better understand the disorder;

- A new map of brain tissue in people with HIV developed by Xiong Jiang, PhD, Director of the Cognitive Neuroimaging Laboratory at *Georgetown*. The map shows atrophy in several areas, including a primary neurocognitive control center where shrinkage and loss of function can be seen in scans before clinical symptoms appear. The map and other findings were published in the journal *Human Brain Mapping* and paint a two-stage model of what exposure to HIV does to the brain;

- Research into a highly deleterious type of DNA damage (a DNA double-strand break) by geneticist Jan LaRocque at *Georgetown’s School of Nursing and Health Studies* who received a three-year award from the National Institute of Health’s (NIH) National Institute of General Medical Sciences. Dr. LaRocque says she hopes to identify the mechanism by which the damage can be repaired. She added that she is particularly excited that the grant will help her foster the culture of undergraduate research opportunities she has built in her laboratory; and

- Research on probiotics and the impact of microbes on the human gut by Dr. Daniel Merenstein, Director of Research Programs in *Georgetown’s Department of Family Medicine Studies*. Further studies on probiotics will investigate how they can benefit human health and the effect they have on respiratory and gastrointestinal infections.

Researchers at the **George Washington School of Engineering and Applied Science (SEAS)** have taken a major step toward reaching one of the most sought-after goals in physics--room temperature superconductivity. Superconductivity is the lack of electrical resistance and is observed in many materials when they are cooled below a critical temperature. Until now, superconducting materials were thought to have to cool to very low temperatures (minus 180 degrees Celsius or minus 292 degrees Fahrenheit), which limited their application. **SEAS** research professors Maddury Somayazulu, Russell Hemley and Muhtar Ahart collaborated with the Carnegie Institution of Washington and Argonne National Laboratory on the research. The study was published January 14 in the journal *Physical Review Letters*.

**George Mason University** researcher Jeff Moran, an Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering, is part of a team of scientists who devised a wetsuit treatment that greatly increases the amount of time divers can safely spend in bitterly cold water. Standard wetsuits are made of neoprene. When the wetsuit is placed inside a five-gallon pressure tank filled with heavy inert gas such as xenon or krypton for one to five days, the heavier gas replaces the air within the neoprene.
The process creates an artificial blubber-type substance that greatly enhances the suit’s thermal insulation properties.

Neil Johnson, Professor of Physics at George Washington University, coauthored a new study examining how systems with many components can reach a desired target without centralized control. The study, “Getting closer to the goal by being less capable,” finds that an entity is more efficient at reaching a target when its components are less sophisticated. The research has the potential to inform everything—from how to effectively structure a company, to building a better autonomous vehicle to optimizing next-generation artificial intelligence algorithms. The paper was published in Science Advances on February 8.

Janet Mann, Georgetown University professor of biology and psychology, is collaborating with Google’s artificial intelligence engineers on individual identification of wildlife, including dolphins, through images. Mann, who has studied over 1,800 individual dolphins in Shark Bay, Australia, provided Google engineers with tens of thousands of images of Shark Bay bottlenose dolphins which she has collected over 32 years of research. “We are hoping this collaboration with Google will create a product that can be applied to all wildlife that have individually identifiable characteristics and will help boost conservation efforts all over the world,” Professor Mann says.

Through the detailed observation of a rare, nearby hypernova, an international team of researchers including George Washington Columbian College of Arts and Sciences Professor of Physics Chryssa Kouveliotou noted the earliest features of the long gamma-ray bursts. Through this observation the researchers discovered the missing link connecting hypernovae to gamma-ray bursts in the form of a hot cocoon around the jets of matter expelled by the central engine as these spread through the outer layers of the progenitor star. Dr. Kouveliotou was one of two researchers on the team based in the United States. The paper, “Signatures of a jet cocoon in early spectra of a supernova associated with a γ-ray burst,” was published January 17 in the journal Nature.

Georgetown University biology professors Leslie Ries and Naresh Neupane co-authored a paper published in PNAS that helps explain why the Monarch Butterfly’s winter population in Mexico has continued to decline. In a collaboration with scientists from Michigan State University, the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico, the Monarch Fund, and the World Wildlife Fund Mexico, the paper reviewed Monarch fall migration patterns and determined that as nectar becomes less available in the autumn in the southeastern U.S., the winter butterfly population in Mexico drops. The population has declined 84 percent since its 1996 peak even as losses of the host milkweed plant have leveled since the mid-2000s. The National Science Foundation funded the paper, supporting a unique interdisciplinary approach relying on a number of different data-collecting techniques.

George Mason University’s Patriot Pollinator Coalition, run through the School of Business, has increased the products it is offering using locally-sourced honey to four, including honey-infused K-cups, tea bags, lip balm and raw honey. The group is also developing an energy gel that eventually could be provided to Mason’s sports teams. The Coalition is a social entrepreneurship program that is a training ground for potential future business owners and an incubator for new product ideas. It is also dedicated to revitalizing bee populations and advancing bee research.
In a separate insect study at Georgetown, global change biologist Colin Carlson, PhD, a postdoctoral fellow in the Biology Department, has found that as many as a billion people could be newly exposed to disease-carrying mosquitoes by the end of the century because of global warming. Dr. Carlson says the news is bad even in areas with only a slight risk of having a climate suited for mosquitoes, because the viruses they carry are notorious for explosive outbreaks when they show up at the right place under the right conditions. Dr. Carlson pointed to the Zika outbreak in Brazil in 2015 as a pattern of what might coming. Most of the most serious diseases carried by Aedes aegypti and Aedes albopictus (mosquito varieties) including dengue, chikungunya and Zika will infect virtually all humans over the next 50 years.

In related research, a Georgetown University biology alumnus is collaborating with his former professor on a $2 million grant to control a mosquito that spreads diseases such as Zika and dengue around the world. Biology professor Peter Armbruster recently connected with his former student, Jacob Crawford (C’03), now a biologist at the firm Verily working on vector control strategies. The subject of their research—the Asian tiger mosquito—is capable of transmitting at least 26 viruses including Zika, Dengue and Chikungunya. The two plan to use the NIH grant to sequence 1,000 genomes of the Asian tiger mosquito.

New research by Elizabeth Suhay, American University School of Public Affairs (SPA) Associate Professor, and her coauthors resulted in a new guide to help scientists better connect with policymakers in order to share their expertise and help shape legislation. Suhay introduced the new guide called Recommended Practices for Science Communication with Policymakers at a January 30 event sponsored by SPA and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).

In the most comprehensive research of its kind to date, Georgetown Law reports that according to its research conducted on the November 2018 election outcomes, 104 out of 138 elected and appointed officials accused of sexual misconduct lost their bids for elective office and were replaced in office in January 2019 by their opponents. The research, led by professor Jamillah Bowman Williams, identified public reporting showing that 111 elected officials and 27 other officials from 45 states were accused of sexual harassment, sexual assault, or other sexual misconduct and violence against women since the 2016 election. All but three of the accused were men. The accusations exploded into a movement known as #MeToo. Professor Bowman said the finding, while unprecedented, was the tip of the iceberg with many more women suffering from a toxic work environment.

Hannah Sande, Assistant Professor of Linguistics at Georgetown University, has traveled to southwest Ivory Coast with her students each summer for the past several years to document the endangered language of Guébie. She is now working to publish the first official grammar of the language. Guébie is a branch of the Kru language spoken by only 7,000 people. It is under threat as more and more residents speak French instead of their native language and as the Ivory Coast witnesses a succession of conflicts. Sande’s work earned her a 42-month Documenting Endangered Languages Grant from the National Science Foundation.
Research at George Mason University found that school suspension is more likely to predict youth drug use than police arrests. The study was led by Beidi Dong, Assistant Professor in the Department of Criminology, Law and Society. The study used data from the Rochester Youth Development Study, a three-generation study that began in 1988, to examine the immediate influence of school discipline on drug use during adolescents and the effect of these disciplinary actions on subsequent drug use in young adulthood. Dong found that school suspensions can result in students internalizing the “delinquent” label and can lead suspended students to use their unstructured and unsupervised time out of school to engage in negative behavior.

In March, Georgetown University researchers launched a series of mobile games in Nepal to reach young people with information about fertility awareness and family planning. The mobile games called “Nari Paila” (Women First) were developed in collaboration with Gaming Revolution for Inspiring Development (GRID). The games integrate information on menstrual health, fertility, and family planning into free Android based apps. The Nari Paila mobile games are one component of the U.S. AID-funded Fertility Awareness for Community Transformation (FACT) project in Nepal.

With funding from the Georgetown University Jesuit Mission Grant, Brian Floyd, MS, Assistant Dean, and Edilma Yearwood, PhD, RN, PMHCSN-BC, Chair of the Department of Professional Nursing Practice, served as principle investigators on a project to collect oral histories of the first two African American nursing students to graduate from what was then called the School of Nursing at Georgetown. The project will focus on recovering, recording, archiving and analyzing the oral histories of Margaret (Hayes) Jordan, BSN Class of 1964, and Bernardine (Mays) Lacey, BSN Class of 1969. Project outcomes over the next year will, according to the researchers, include journal submission for publication, presentations at various academic conferences, an alumnae talk with participants, and taped digital recordings of interviews to be housed in the official archives of Georgetown University.

George Mason University Assistant Professor Brett Josephson did some groundbreaking research that showed specialization and not diversification was the key to company health and a rising stock price when it comes to contracting with the federal government. That is important in Northern Virginia, where the economy is so heavily dependent on the federal government. Johnson and his team conducted 19 in-depth interviews with government contracting experts to identify unique aspects of the business-to-government interface. They also examined 1,360 publicly traded firms that did business with the federal government during a 16-year period. The research, titled “Uncle Same Rising: Performance Implications of Business-to-Government Relations” was published in the “Journal of Marketing.”

Georgetown University’s Kalmanovitz Initiative for Labor and the Working Poor issued a study in April based on a poll of 40 Uber drivers in the DC region. The report found that the business model underlying the popular ride sharing service as “unsustainable.” One third of those polled reported that assaults or safety concerns continued to be an issue while others reported that they went into debt to enable their participation in the platform. Based on interviews conducted in 2016, the researchers found that one-third of all Uber drivers said they were in a “debt-trap” with drivers taking out loans to cover their vehicle purchases or upgrades but being subject to the whims of Uber’s corporate policy changes. All drivers said they could not accurately
predict their likely income due to Uber’s “slippery” definition of “wage.” Uber responded to the report saying that its policies had “changed a lot since this research was started.”

Stephen Fuller, Director of George Mason University’s Stephen S. Fuller Institute for Research on the Washington Region’s Economic Future, delivered his 2019 evaluation of the area economy, saying 2019 will not be as good as 2018. Fuller cited global and domestic uncertainty about everything from Brexit to China to the Mueller report. That said, Fuller explained that the Washington economy would do better than the nation as a whole and that the area’s professional and business services industries and construction firms will see considerable growth, accounting for nearly 75 percent of gains across all sectors.

**ON THE ROAD**

An expedition to an isolated hill range located in Southern India along one of the top biodiversity hotspots in the world led to the discovery of a new, ancient lineage of frog endemic to the area, according to a study published March 12 in the journal PeerJ. A team of researchers, led by S.P. Vijayakumar, currently a postdoctoral scientist in biology at George Washington University, and including R. Alexander Pyron, the Robert F. Griggs Associate Professor of Biology at GW, set out to conduct a large-scale survey of amphibians and reptiles in the Western Ghats region of India. During several nocturnal searches, they came across a type of frog never seen before. The researchers collected samples of the unknown frog and used DNA sequencing technology to place the new species on the amphibian tree of life, assigning the unknown frog to a new subfamily, *Astrobatrachinae*, thus creating a new species, *Astrobatrachus kurichiyana* or more commonly, the Starry Dwarf Frog.

Catholic University’s Claudia Bornholdt, Walburg Chair of German Language and Literature and Chair of the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, and Director of European Studies, was invited by the Delegation of the European Union to the United States to moderate a discussion with Danish film producer Sune Wahl on the topic of immigration and integration. The discussion followed the screening of the 2017 short film *Adnan's Father (Abu Adnan)*. Professor Bornholdt subsequently left CUA for a position with Coastal Carolina University which she started on July 1.

Georgetown University alumnus and student Patrick Malone (G’19, M’21), who is enrolled in the MD/PhD program, attended the Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting in the summer of 2018 in Lindau, Germany alongside 39 Nobel Laureates and 600 young scientists from 84 countries. Malone was one of 29 students from the United States selected to attend the weeklong event due to his research in neuroscience and speech perception. For his thesis research, Malone is exploring how the brain can learn to perceive speech through the sense of touch.

In January, Andrew J. Boyd, Instructor of Theology at the Catholic University’s Rome Center since 2013, started a year as a nonresidential International Fellow at the King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue (KAICIID). The Fellowship includes two weeklong programs in Vienna, and one weeklong program in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Twenty-three fellows representing 17 countries and 14 religious traditions were chosen from nearly 200 applicants. In November, Boyd also presented two presentations to

Nine full-time and evening MBA students took part in a new hands-on leadership experience, the Rocky Mountain Leadership Trek in August 2018. The eight-day 40-mile journey through Wyoming’s Wind River mountain range was run through the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) to develop resilient, confident leaders who can excel on teams. Anne Peick, a NOLS guide who went on the trek, said that the educational goal of the trip was to integrate the students’ MBA curriculum at the MBA curriculum at Georgetown University’s McDonough School of Business with NOLS’ own leadership training. The students came to Wyoming with diverse backgrounds in hiking, ranging from extensive backcountry experience to almost no camping experience.

Arpad von Klimo, Associate Professor of History at Catholic University of America, served as Commentator on the panel “Performing Hungarian Sports: Challenging Historical and Political Stereotypes” at the 2018 National Convention of the Association for Slavic, East European & Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) held in Boston in December 2018. At the meeting, Professor Klimo was nominated as the new editor of the Hungarian Studies Review. (For more on Professor Klimo, see The Written Word.)

Georgetown University senior Julia Friedmann (SFS’19) was the first Georgetown recipient of the Pulitzer Center International Reporting Fellowship, offered annually through the Berkley Center for Religious, Peace and World Affairs. The $3,000 grant funds a reporting project by a full-time student that highlights the religious dimension of an international conflict. Friedmann, a regional and comparative studies major who studied abroad in Quito, Ecuador, returned to South America in summer 2018 to cover the role of religion in the Columbia peace process. After completing her reporting portion of the fellowship, she joined Fellows from across Pulitzer’s 30-campus consortium in Washington, DC in October to share her work. Friedmann produced two articles and a multimedia video.

Catholic University of America’s Mike Allen, Vice President for Student Affairs; and Sean Sullivan, Associate Vice President and Director of Athletics, gave a presentation at the NCAA Annual Convention in Orlando, Florida to a group of vice presidents, presidents, and other senior administrators who oversee athletic departments at their respective institutions. The talk was entitled: "Athletics and Enrollment Management: Balancing Expectations and Outcomes."

Ten Trinity Washington University students traveled with Dr. Patrice Moss, Clare Boothe Luce Associate Professor of Biochemistry, to the University of Maryland, Baltimore County Undergraduate Research Symposium in October to present their research. Two of the students--Trinity STEM scholars--received honors for their poster presentations. They were:

- Domonique Butler (’20), a biology major, who placed first in chemical sciences for her presentation on “Chemical Analysis and Toxicity of VOC Emissions from Hair Care Products for African American Women”; and
Samantha Lazo Contreras ('20), a biology major, who placed second in biological sciences with her research, “Sox 17 Deficiency Decreases Cell Proliferation and Oligodendrocyte Development in the Postnatal White Matter;”

Both students were NASA Scholars at Trinity, conducting research over the summer with support from a NASA grant. The following students also presented their undergraduate research projects, including several additional NASA Scholars. They were:

- Teresita Hernandez Arriola ('19), chemistry, (NASA Scholar);
- Silvia Medina Balcazar ('19), biochemistry;
- Jessica Bonilla ('20), biology (NASA Scholar);
- Jade Bowman ('20), forensic science (NASA Scholar);
- Adriana Pino Delgado ('19), biology, (For more on Adriana, see Spotlight: Students);
- Zakiyyah Jones ('20), biochemistry;
- Kelly Lee ('20), biology; and
- Cierra Wiggins ('20), forensic science (NASA Scholar).

Georgetown University seniors traveled to different corners of the world as part of the School of Nursing & Health Studies' 12-credit research practicum experience for seniors:

- Madeline Leonard (NHS'19), a global health major who hopes to become a physician, researched antiretroviral non-adherence in Tanzania fall semester 2018. While there, she conducted independent research at one of the field stations for the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) in Korogwe, Tanzania on secondary data analysis looking for determinants of antiretroviral nonadherence among HIV-positive adults. And, at Georgetown, she has served as an EMT and Acting Crew Chief with GERMS; and
- Global health major Khalida Saalim (NHS’19) spent the fall semester in Ghana. While there, she conducting research with the Dodowa Health Research Centre, an hour outside Ghana’s capital of Accra, to focus on expectant mothers’ knowledge, perceptions, and attitudes surrounding postnatal care attendance. Saalim hopes to pursue a PhD in the future. (For more on GERMS, see Spotlight: Students).

Anita Shagnea, Clinical Instructor of Mathematics at Catholic University of America, presented a talk, "Getting Students on Track: Experience with a Newly Developed Self-Paced Online Pre-Calculus Review Course" at the Joint AMS/MAA Mathematics Meetings in Baltimore, January 16-19.

Andrew Light, a University Professor at George Mason University who served on the U.S. State Department’s senior strategy team negotiating the Paris Climate agreement, testified before the U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce about what universities can do to help America keep its global climate commitments.

Jerry Muller, Professor at Catholic University of America, gave a talk on the use and abuse of metrics to the Arnold Foundation in Houston, Texas on December 14.

Kathryn de Luna, an Associate Professor of History at Georgetown University, is a co-investigator on a collaborative research grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to study the causes of population expansion and language change between the 6th and 16th centuries in central Africa. Prior to the NEH grant, she conducted fieldwork in five countries in
eastern and south central Africa. With this latest grant, she intends to take her research team to a small village in central Zambia over the next three years, allowing Georgetown students to study abroad in the central African nation as part of a five-week summer session. The effort also received support from the Georgetown Environmental Initiative and Georgetown’s Global Health Initiative.

Andrew H. Weaver, Professor of Musicology at Catholic University of America, gave a lecture titled “Of Color, Space, and Texture: How We Use Visual Language to Talk about Music” at the Gaithersburg Arts Barn on Saturday, February 16. Part of the Art History Gallery Talks Series, Weaver’s lecture was given in conjunction with an art exhibition titled “Musicalia,” produced by the City of Gaithersburg’s Arts on the Green.

Julio Bermudez, Catholic University of America School of Architecture’s Director of Cultural Studies and Sacred Space Graduate Concentration, gave a lecture at the University of Miami entitled “In Pursuit of a Spiritual Urbanism,” “on Monday, February 11. Bermudez also presented at the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament as part of their “Art in Formation” lecture series on Tuesday, February 19. The talk, entitled “Sacred Space: Spirituality & Architecture,” focused on Catholic faith and spirituality vis-à-vis sacred spaces.

Faculty from the American University School of Public Affairs recently participated in the Senior Staff Symposium on Leadership at Mount Vernon, which drew over 100 bipartisan senior staff members and congressional aides for speeches, discussions, and sessions on Capitol Hill challenges.

Georgetown University senior Michaela Hitchner, a Global Health major (NHS’19), returned to campus in November 2018 after finishing a 12-credit, semester-long research practicum in Australia. While there, she researched early childhood development services, reviewing services available for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families; completing a literature review on early childhood development best practices; and executing her own qualitative study on the early childhood development services currently available at the Townsville (Australia) and Islander Health Service (TAIHS). Hitchner credited Georgetown with its innovative Global Health Degree as helping her fulfill her long-held interest in Australian culture.

**THE WRITTEN WORD**

Sr. Mary Johnson, SNDdeN, Distinguished Professor of Religious Studies and Sociology at Trinity Washington University, is the principal researcher and co-author of a new book published in February by Oxford Press, “Migration to Mission, International Catholic Sisters in the United States.” The book, based on years of research and interviews, focuses on the experience and impact of Catholic sisters coming from around the world to the United States to minister and study.

Louise Shelley, Director of George Mason University’s Terrorism, Crime and Corruption Center, wrote a book—*Dark Commerce: How a New Illicit Economy is Threatening Our Future*—that describes 4,000 years of illicit trade and how it is affecting the global environment.
Maria Frawley, a **George Washington University Columbian College of Arts and Sciences** English professor and Executive Director of the **University Honors Program (UHP)**, recently published a collaborative essay that explores how and why Jane Austen used the language of economics throughout her work exemplified by words such as worth, value and estimate. She worked on the essay alongside two undergraduate research assistants, **UHP** juniors Kaitlyn Nigro and Gwendolyn Umbach. The authors theorize that Austen uses economic rhetoric in part to highlight the way her heroine shifts from thinking about a potential marriage prospect in terms of what financial wealth he brings to the match, to calculations about the value of his character. The paper, “To be ‘esteemed quite worthy’: Fortunes, Futures, and Economic Language in Persuasion,” was published in **Persuasions Online**, which is distributed by the Jane Austen Society of North America.

Julia Young, Associate Professor of History at **Catholic University**, published “A wall can’t solve America’s addiction to undocumented immigration” in The Washington Post, January 9, 2019. She also received the 2019 Patrick Foley Award for best article in the 2018 Catholic Southwest.

**George Washington University** law professors David Fontana and Naomi Schoenbaum wrote the provocatively titled article, “Unsexing Pregnancy,” which was published in the March 2019 issue of the **Columbia Law Review**. The basic reasoning underlying the article is the observation that since the 1970’s the law has endeavored to “unsex” parenting and care work, removing sex-based barriers from full employment with family-friendly legislation. However, a similar approach has not applied to parents-to-be. According to the article, expanding sex-equity and equal-protection laws to both parents prior to birth may bolster sex equality and enhance women’s autonomy and men’s participation in family life.

**Georgetown University** history professor Maurice Jackson says Washington, DC, has secured a legacy of jazz linked to the struggle for civil rights and the music’s global reach. The historian recently co-edited **DC Jazz: Stories of Jazz Music in Washington, DC** (**Georgetown University Press**, 2018) with author and urban historian Blair Ruble exploring the history of the genre in the city. Anna Celenza, another **Georgetown** professor, wrote a chapter in the book on jazz legislation noting that jazz has a global reach embraced by the U.S. State Department which established the Jazz Ambassadors program that ran from 1956 until the late 1970s. “Jazz is a story of people who use music in the fight for equality and dignity,” said Professor Jackson. “There could be no better use of music in the African and American tradition.”

**Trinity Washington University** President Patricia McGuire and **Trinity Washington University** were featured in a **Chronicle of Higher Education** article, “Newfound Enthusiasm for Women’s Colleges,” in October that focused on the increasing enrollments at women’s colleges. The story opens with a feature photo of two **Trinity** STEM scholars, Kimberly Cruz (’18) and Raissa Audrey Tseumie (’18). The article notes that there’s a “wave of enthusiasm for women’s colleges” and many young women are “excited by the promise of an all-women’s education … More students say they want an environment where they can be supported by other women’s voices. …. and “There’s a heightened sense of purpose for today’s women’s colleges.”

Arpad von Klimo, Associate Professor of History at **Catholic University of America**, co-edited the Routledge History of East Central Europe since 1700 with I. Livezeanu. **Choice Magazine** (a
publishing unit of the ACRL - Association for College & Research Libraries and of ALA - American Library Association) has selected it as "outstanding academic title" in its latest issue. (For more about Professor Klimo, see On the Road.)

Thomas Mallon, Professor Emeritus of English in the **George Washington University** **Columbian College of Arts and Sciences**, authored the critically acclaimed novel *Landfall*. Set during the tumultuous middle of the George W. Bush years—amid the twin catastrophes of the Iraq insurgency and Hurricane Katrina—the novel reveals a cavalcade of contemporary American politics.

Venigalla Rao, Professor and Chairman of Catholic University’s **Department of Biology**, ended 2018 on a high note by publishing his latest research article in the December 21 issue of the prestigious journal, *Nature Communications*. A few weeks later, he heard that his newest article is expected to be published by the same journal in the coming weeks, pending revisions. With the many successes of this past year and half, Rao believes he is getting closer and closer to his ultimate goal: creating a unique bacteriophage T4 virus platform to cure diseases, including HIV or even cancer. Rao’s development of a novel biodefense vaccine that protects against both anthrax and plague was featured in *Newsweek* magazine in the fall.

Allan Lichtman, Distinguished Professor of History in American University’s **College of Arts and Sciences (CAS)**, recently published a new book, *The Embattled Vote in America: From the Founding to the Present*, which details the troubled history of voting rights in the United States. The book argues that because there isn’t a constitutional right to vote, historically, huge segments of the American people have been denied voting rights. Professor Lichtman cites the Framers’ decision to leave voting to the states as a design flaw. “They loved the people, but not all that much,” he writes. Since then, Professor Lichtman says that voter fraud has been used to justify all sorts of voting restrictions creating radically different voting rules between red and blue states. He does see positive developments as more voters recognize the unique value of protecting a universal franchise.

In her new book, **Georgetown University** English professor Sherry Linkon argues that the children and grandchildren of former autoworkers, steelworkers, and miners, who lost their jobs in the 1970’s, are creating a new American literary genre—deindustrialization literature. Professor Linkon edits a weekly blog entitled Working-Class Perspectives which is housed in Georgetown’s **Kalmanovitz Initiative for Labor and the Working Poor**. She also directs the American Studies Program and serves as the Faculty Director for the Writing Curriculum Initiatives. Her book—*The Half-Life of Deindustrialization: Working-Class Writing About Economic Restructuring*—takes an understanding look at the American working class, especially the white working class, in an effort to understand how changes to this group are driving changes in America at large.

Four **American University School of Public Affairs (SPA)** affiliated authors collaborated on an article in *Public Administration Review*, reporting findings that managers who consider diversity and hire employees skilled in care for diverse clientele have better nursing home facilities with fewer regulatory violations. The article’s authors included Associate Professor Anna Amirkhanyan; Distinguished Professor Ken Meier; and Austin McCrea, an incoming SPA doctoral student. **AU** graduate Steve Holt (**SPA**, PhD ’17), an Assistant Professor at Albany-SUNY, also worked on the article. While demographic diversity has long been a concern to researchers and practitioners in
public management, studies exploring managerial strategies to respond to the needs of diverse client populations are scarce.

**Georgetown University** psychology professor Fathali Moghaddam focused on how groups and leaders radicalize each other in his new book, *Mutual Radicalization: How Groups and Nations Drive Each Other to Extremes*. Professor Moghaddam’s book presents ten case studies of the phenomena including why Republicans and Democrats can’t find compromise; why the NRA and gun-rights groups continue to wrangle; how Israel vs. Palestine continues as an ongoing conflict; and why North vs. South Korea defies resolution. To de-fang mutual radicalization, Professor Moghaddam says, contesting parties must be convinced that peace is beneficial.

**Body of Work**

The new season of the hit podcast *Serial* features expertise from the American University School of Public Affairs’ (SPA) Justice Program’s Office (JPO). Zoe Root, Senior Policy Counsel at JPO and an SPA adjunct professor, worked with the show to review court transcripts for a second episode. The story follows cases in the courtroom of Common Pleas Court Judge Daniel Gaul in Cuyahoga County, Ohio, a controversial figure called out for using racial stereotypes and questionable judicial methods. Root was pleased with how the podcast used her input; did a thorough job with the research; and described the shortcomings of the criminal justice system in a compelling way. “I feel very honored to have been part of it,” says Root.

Two economics blogs written by George Mason University professors were selected for inclusion in the Library of Congress’ collection of internet materials related to the Economics Blogs Web Archive. “Marginal Revolution,” started in 2003 by Tyler Cowen and Alex Tabarrok, and “Coordination Problem,” created by Peter Boettke in 2005, discuss events in and around the world of economics with a goal to positively influence the world.

Catholic University’s Assistant Professor in the Department of Art Jonathan Monaghan was exhibited at Marymount University’s Barry Gallery in Arlington, VA. His artwork was in a show focusing on the advancements of modern technology, its influence on the world around us, and the ways it can be incorporated into the creation of artwork. The exhibition was presented in conjunction with Marymount University’s Ethics Week – “Ethics and Technology”. ARTECH which ran from January 25 to February 24, 2019.

American University Associate Professor Kate Haulman guest-curated a new Smithsonian exhibition, *All Work, No Pay: A History of Women’s Invisible Labor*. The exhibit examined the historical role of housework with special attention to race and class, and how women continue to be responsible for most housework despite advances in the paid labor force.

Julio Bermudez, a professor in Catholic University’s School of Architecture and Planning, appeared in the episode “Visions of God,” part of the third season of *The Story of God with Morgan Freeman*. The episode aired on the National Geographic Channel on March 19, 2019. The documentary series explores various cultures and religions, particularly regarding beliefs about God or a higher being.
Trinity Washington University Associate Professor of Psychology, Dr. Deborah Harris-O’Brien, was named President of Psi Chi, the International Honor Society in Psychology, in March. Dr. Harris-O’Brien is a founding advisor of the Psi Chi Chapter at Trinity, one of the oldest and largest honor societies at the university. As advisor, she has worked diligently over the years to ensure that all psychology majors understand the importance of access and participation in the networks that Psi Chi offers.

Maria Cancian, Dean of Georgetown University’s McCourt School of Public Policy, has been elected to lead the Association of Public Policy Analysis and Management, which organizes a premier multidisciplinary annual research conference and publishes the prestigious *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*. Last winter, Georgetown named Professor Cancian a Distinguished Scholar of Family and Antipoverty Policies and Dean of McCourt School. Her tenure in that position began on February 1.

American University School of Public Affairs Professorial Lecturer Jane Palmer has been selected for a Victim Research-to-Practice Fellowship to study the civil and legal needs of sexual assault survivors in partnership with the Victim Rights Law Center (VRLC) headquartered in Boston, MA. She will receive $15,000 through the Center for Victim Research, which was created to meet the need for increased statistical data, evidence-based practices, and program evaluation to guide victim services providers, policymakers and funders. VRLC is the first nonprofit organization in the country to focus on providing free legal assistance to sexual assault survivors in the critical areas of privacy, safety, housing, employment, education and immigration. Palmer directs the Community-Based Research Scholars Program at AU.

Dwala Toombs was appointed Director for the Mid-Atlantic Education Recruitment Consortium (HERC) and Diversity Outreach for George Mason University. In this role she will work with colleagues to continue to increase diversity outreach for Mason and other local affiliated employers.

American University computer science professor Chun-Hsi Huang was awarded $219,006 from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to act as the 2018-2019 program director for the Secure and Trustworthy Cyberspace Program (SaTC). The SaTC Program funds research and educational activities to ensure security and protect privacy to preserve the growing social and economic benefits of cybersystems. Through the grant, NSF gives scientists the opportunity to join as temporary program directors, allowing them to make funding recommendations, determine new directors for their respective fields, support new research, and mentor new researchers. As part of the grant, Professor Huang will act as a rotating Program Director of the Division of Graduate Education.

In Memoriam

Georgetown University was saddened by the loss of several high profile alumni and faculty as well as an enrolled student in 2019:
• In January, Georgetown honored Rev. Charles L. Currie, S.J., a champion of social justice who passed away at age 88 on January 4. A wake and Vigil Service were held on January 11 for the priest who joined the Georgetown faculty as a chemistry professor in the late 1960’s and later served as Director of the university’s 1989 Bicentennial Celebration. He also served as president of three separate entities—the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities; Xavier University; and Wheeling Jesuit University. U.S. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi issued a statement on his passing calling him a “fearless voice for peace and human rights up until his final days;”

• In February, Georgetown mourned the passing of former Rep. John D. Dingell (D-Michigan), the longest-serving member of Congress in U.S. history and a devoted Georgetown alumnus. Prior to his death at 92, Dingell graduated from Georgetown College (Class of 1949); Georgetown Law (Class of 1952) and went on to serve almost 60 years in Congress. Dingell regularly visited campus—attending John Carroll Weekend and Georgetown’s annual Capitol Hill reception most recently. He also recently spoke at the McCourt School of Public Policy about the changing culture in Congress. “We remember Congressman Dingell not only for his longevity of service, but for the exemplary way in which he fulfilled his duties as a representative of the American people, and for his unwavering commitment to our nation—as a citizen, a legislator, and as a veteran,” said Georgetown President John DeGioia upon learning of his death; and

• In March, Cedric Asiavugwa (L’19), an accomplished Georgetown University Law student who worked in the Office of Campus Ministry and was committed to social justice, was killed in an Ethiopian Airlines crash that also killed 156 others. Cedric was remembered by students, faculty and staff at Georgetown Law for his passion, compassion and dedication according to a joint letter issued by Georgetown Law’s Executive Vice President and Dean William Treanor and Dean Reverend Mark Bosco, Vice-President for Mission and Ministry. Among the issues Cedric worked on—protecting vulnerable women and children fleeing war in Somalia; the impact of international conflicts on food insecurity in East Africa, and the direction of a television series on peace and reconciliation.

P-20

George Mason University held an event—Dyslexic Edge:2019 Pathways to STEM Excellence—in which parents, teachers and industry experts discussed the best ways to educate and build confidence in K-12 students who have dyslexia. The hope is that the event will lead to summer camps for students with dyslexia and a teaching academy. Mason is partnering with two advocacy groups—Sliding Doors LLC and Decoding Dyslexia—on the program.

The Admissions Office at Georgetown Law invites area high school students annually to its campus to think about how laws are made and introduce them to law school before they go to college. This year, Visiting Professor Tia Johnson, former Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security under President Obama, and Visiting Professor Charisma Howell, Director of Georgetown Law’s Street Law program, greeted the students to campus on February 13. The program was part of an Early Outreach Initiative created by Georgetown Law Executive Vice President and Dean William M. Treanor and Dean of
Admissions Andy Cornblatt to introduced students of all backgrounds to all that is possible. “Improving access to legal education is a critical aspect to ensuring access to justice overall,” Dean Treanor said in introductory remarks to the students.

**Campus Support**

**George Mason University’s Antonin Scalia Law School** received a gift for more than $50 million to support 13 new faculty chairs of approximately $4 million each. The bequest, from the estate of the late judge Allison M. Rouse and Mrs. Dorothy B. Rouse, is the largest gift received in Mason history and will create a permanent endowment—the Allison and Dorothy Rouse Endowment. The Rouse gift brings Mason’s 10-Year Faster Farther campaign to a close. The campaign was launched with a $500 million goal. Faster Farther concluded December 31, 2018 with a total of $690 million raised to support students, faculty, research and campus facilities. More than 73,000 donors made gifts over the decade-long course of the campaign.

A $20 million gift from Patricia and Jon M. Baker to **Georgetown University** will be used to establish the **Baker Trust for Transformational Learning.** The goal of the **Trust** is to develop a new paradigm of learning that engages, adapts and responds to the complex needs of the 21st century, moving applied learning from the margins to the center of the educational experience, said Randall Bass, Vice Provost for Education at Georgetown who is overseeing the new initiative. The **Trust’s** work, which began in the spring of 2019 is planned to touch all schools on the Main Campus seeking to expand student experiences beyond the classroom by incorporating capacity-building activities, leadership opportunities, internships, research, fieldwork, and other kinds of personal and professional development into the curriculum.

**Georgetown University Law** alumnus Scott K. Ginsburg (L’78) has committed $10.5 million to the law school, the largest one-time commitment in the history of Georgetown Law. The gift will support the expansion of Georgetown Law near Capitol Hill. Mr. Ginsburg previously funded the Scott K. Ginsburg Sport and Fitness Center at Georgetown Law which, in combination with his $10.5 million grant, places him as the single most generous philanthropist in in Georgetown Law’s history. In recognition of the gift, Georgetown plans to launch the **Scott K. Ginsburg Professorships.** Four faculty members will hold the initial **Scott K. Ginsburg Professorships** including Professors Rosa Brooks, Sheila Foster, David Hyman and Carlos Vazquez. Professor Brooks was installed as the inaugural **Ginsburg Scholar** in March.

**American University** launched the new **Sine Institute of Policy and Politics** on September 24 thanks to a donation of $10 million from AU alumnus, Trustee and entrepreneur Jeff Sine (SIS/BA ’76) and his wife Samira Sine, an advocate for women and a seasoned journalist. The **Sine Institute** will bring together experts and top scholars in the field with students in research and scholarship to work on the nation’s most pressing challenges in a way that promotes common ground and bipartisan policy solutions. **All President Sylvia Burwell** and former Senator Jeff Flake (R-AZ) participated in the **Institute’s** launch in an event at the Newseum.

A 10 million gift, the largest of its kind to **Georgetown Law School**, will establish a new **Blume Public Leadership Institute**, which will provide promising students interested in public
leadership with full-tuition scholarships so they can train for public sector careers. Students exhibiting exceptional promise as future public leaders will receive full-tuition scholarships as **Blume Scholars** while training for lives of service as public officials, policy makers, thought leaders, entrepreneurs and visionaries. A 1980 graduate of *Georgetown Law*, Bruce Blume serves on the law school’s **Board of Visitors** and the **Georgetown University Board of Directors**. He described the **Institute** as reflecting his personal mission in life as well as “Georgetown’s ethos of service to others.” (For more on the Blumes’ impact on *Georgetown*, see Campus movers and Shakers.)

An additional $10 million grant from Nancy and Arthur (C’54) Calcagnini to **Georgetown University** will provide $7.5 million for undergraduate scholarships and $2.5 million for the university’s **Office of Mission and Ministry**. **Georgetown President John DeGioia** said the gift would be one of the largest contributed to the school’s financial aid program and aligns with the university’s top strategic priority—access and affordability—while also supporting its Jesuit and Catholic mission. First-generation college students will receive scholarship funds from the Calcagninis’ gift enabling them to participate in trailblazing programs such as the **Georgetown Scholar’s Program (GSP)** and the **Community Scholars Program**. (For more on GSP, see Campus Life.)

On September 6, **American University** announced that Board of Trustees member Gary Abramson, (SPA/BA ’68) and his wife Pennie Abramson, had made a generous $5 million gift to begin construction on **AU’s Hall of Science**. It is expected that the Hall of Science will serve as a catalyst for discovery and a groundbreaking space for the university’s community of award-winning scientists and students to address key issues such as climate change, cancer, obesity and dementia. Gary Abramson is a current Trustee and Chairman Emeritus of the **All Board of Trustees**. In addition to the soon-to-be named Gary and Pennie Abramson Discovery Hall within the Hall of Science, the Abramson’s generosity has also been manifested across campus, notably in the Abramson Family Founders Room in the **School of International Service**; the Abramson Family Plaza at the **School of Communications**; and the Abramson Family Recital Hall in the Katzen Arts Center.

The **Sigur Center for Asian Studies** and the **Institute for Korean Studies**, both housed in **George Washington University’s Elliott School of International Affairs**, have been awarded $1.8 million to establish an **East Asia National Resource Center** at **GW**. The grant, which covers four years, comes from the U.S. Department of Education’s Title VI programs, National Resource Centers (NRC) and Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships. The new Center’s aim will be to address a national need for greater knowledge and expertise on East Asia through expanded language instruction, area studies educational programs, outreach and teacher training. This is the first time that the **Sigur Center** and the **Institute for Korean Studies** have received NRC status, which means the Center will serve as a national base for teaching resources for modern East Asian languages.

An existing program for aspiring public servants has a boost and a new name thanks to the leadership and personal generosity of Paul (SFS’62) and Nancy Pelosi. The **Paul F. Pelosi Public Service Scholar Program** at **Georgetown University** aims to identify undergraduates in the **School of Foreign Service** who are committed to a career in public service, prepare them for
global leadership, and inspire them to engage deeply in the study of global affairs. Paul and Nancy Pelosi led an effort to raise $1.6 million for the program.

In the five years since George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences (SMHS) experts were awarded a $1.3 million grant to train citizens and first responders to administer medical care in the immediate aftermath of a mass casualty event, more than 5,000 individuals across the country have participated in training courses. In 2014, SMHS was awarded a continuing training grant by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to develop courses that would better prepare citizens and first responders to provide care after high-threat scenarios. The FEMA-sponsored course is led by Geoffrey Shapiro, Director of EMS and Operational Medicine Training. Mr. Shapiro and his team developed a series of seven courses, including a free online introductory course, aimed at the specific needs of different populations. The other six classes are taught in person to cater to the needs of civilians, medical personnel and EMS, fire and law enforcement first responders.

George Mason University’s Schar School of Policy and Government received a $1.1 million gift from the Charles Koch Foundation to pursue research on immigration, population change and labor markets. The five-year grant supports Mason’s Center for the Study of Social Change, Institutions and Policy. The grant will fund at least five new PhD fellows, center operating expenses, and an annual workshop on the impact of demography and migration.

Three of Georgetown University’s famous alumni comedians – Jim Gaffigan (B’88), Mike Birbiglia (C’00), and John Mulaney (C’04) – raised $1 million during a sold-out performance to support first-generation college students through the Georgetown Scholars Program (GSP). Held in January in New York City, the performance, was entitled “Stand Up for Georgetown.” It featured the three comics, two of whom were members of the Georgetown Players Improv Troop (Birbiglia and Mulaney) and one who played on the football team (Gaffigan.) Gaffigan also took time away from his “Fixer Upper” tour to perform another sold-out show in Chicago also in support of the GSP. Many in the audience were GSP alumni or currently enrolled students.

George Mason University’s ADVANCE program received a $1 million grant to support the creation of education-to-employment pathways for students participating in ADVANCE, Mason’s innovative partnership with Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA). The three-year grant will fund the ADVANCE Career Accelerator, a new career support model that will provide students personalized coaching and a menu of services designed to help identify career goals and create direct connections to the workforce. (For more on the ADVANCE program, see Academic Affairs.)

The University of Maryland’s College of Computer, Mathematical, and Natural Sciences (CMNS) will receive $1 million from the state’s Maryland E-Novation Initiative (MEI) to match a private donation establishing two Brin Family Endowed Professorships in Theoretical Computer Science. “The Brin family is extremely grateful to the state of Maryland for this match,” said Samuel Brin (BS Computer Science, ’09) who spearheaded the effort on behalf of the family. “Our family is committed to Prince George’s County and the University of Maryland, our home for many years.” In addition to Samuel, the Brin family includes his brother and Google co-founder Sergey Brin (BS’93, mathematics and computer science); his father UMD Professor
Emeritus of Mathematics Michael Brin; and his mother Eugenia Brin, a retired NASA scientist who worked on issues related to climate and weather forecasting.

John Sides, Professor of Political Science in the George Washington University Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, received a $300,000 grant from the Democracy Fund to support the “Monkey Cage” column in The Washington Post.

The National Science Foundation has awarded a three-year $263,780 grant to physics professors at The Catholic University of America to establish a Research Experience for Undergraduates program.

Trinity Washington University launched a Global Leadership Initiative in March with the support of a $250,000 grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. The new Initiative is designed to incorporate global issues into the humanities and social sciences curriculum. This is Trinity’s third major grant from the Mellon Foundation. Previous grants have supported undergraduate student research, faculty development of new courses and faculty workshops on pedagogies. The Trinity Global Leadership Initiative will fund faculty and curricular development as well as student internships and research, along with symposia and other academic programs. Through this initiative, the faculty in history, political science and international affairs will form a global affairs program to ensure that students and scholars will be attracted to study at Trinity and take advantage of Washington DC’s major resources in global issues.

Takae Tsujioka, Teaching Assistant Professor in the Japanese Language at George Washington University, received a $30,000 grant from the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission to support the Japanese Learning Inspired Vision And Engagement (J.Live) Talk 2019.

George Mason University has launched its own exclusive wine label to fund school-sponsored student scholarships. In partnership with California-based Siema Wines, the university has developed two Geo. Mason Wines--one a cabernet sauvignon and another a chardonnay--with plans to sell them for $19.99 a bottle. The university’s scholarship fund will receive $3.50 for each bottle sold. George Mason University Foundation Board member Taylor Cofer Beirne, who represents California wineries and their trade group, the Wine Institute, came up with the idea after seeing that Virginia Tech had licensed “Hokie Bird” wines in 2004. About 100 cases of Geo. Mason Wine have been sold meaning roughly $4,000 to $5,000 has been raised in the label’s first two months.

### Campus Movers and Shakers

Dr. Lawrence T. Potter, Jr. has been appointed to be the new Chief Academic Officer (CAO) of the University of the District of Columbia (UDC). A former fellow of the American Council on Education (ACE), Dr. Potter will be responsible for academic coordination and quality, fostering research and public service, and guiding all aspects of teaching and learning in support of student success. Previously, Dr. Potter held positions at the University of La Verne in La Verne, CA and M. E. Robinson College of Liberal Arts at Jackson State University in Jackson, MS. Dr. Potter graduated magna cum laude with a triple major in English, Philosophy, and Religion
from Stillman College, and earned his master's degree and Ph.D. in English, with Distinction, from the University of Missouri-Columbia.

On January 15, American University welcomed its new Provost and Chief Academic Officer, Daniel J. Myers. Dr. Myers, who received his undergraduate degree from Ohio State and his PhD from the University of Wisconsin at Madison, views accessibility and relatability as part of the job. He is a frequent podcaster with an active social media presence as well. He comes to AU from Notre Dame where he spent 17 years, finishing as Vice President and Associate Provost of Academic Affairs. He said that one of his chief focuses will be on the choice all faculty members face in balancing their academic burden between publishing and classroom teaching.

Marymount University also welcomed a new Provost. From a distinguished national pool, the university selected Hesham El-Rewini, Ph.D., PE who began his duties at Marymount on July 15. Dr. El-Rewini had been serving as the Dean of the College of Engineering and Mines at the University of North Dakota since 2008 as well as, since 2017, as the Senior Vice Provost. As an educator for 30 years, Dr. El-Rewini has extensive experience in computer science, teaching, academic affairs, strategic planning, financial management and public speaking. “We are excited to bring on a new provost with exceptional academic experience,” said Marymount President Irma Becerra.

Dr. Victor R. McCrary is the new Vice President for Research, Graduate Studies and Sponsored Programs at the University of the District of Columbia. In this role, Dr. McCrary will be responsible for the growth, direction and oversight of UDC’s research enterprise. He has held similar positions at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory; Morgan State University; and the University of Tennessee. He is a former national president of the National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers (NOBCChE), and a Fellow of the American Chemical Society. Dr. McCrary received his doctoral degree in chemistry from Howard University; a master's degree in engineering management from the University of Pennsylvania; and a bachelor's degree in chemistry from The Catholic University of America.

At its open session meeting on February 8, the George Washington University Board of Trustees announced nominees for its three leadership positions: Grace Speights, (JD ’82), for Chair; Ellen Zane, (BA ’73), for reelection as Vice Chair; and Ave Tucker, (BBA ’77), for Secretary. It also approved the university’s new mission statement, which is drawn directly from GW’s Congressional Charter.

Georgetown University has added several senior staff including:

- David B. Green, formerly Associate Vice President of Financial Operations at George Washington University, who joined Georgetown University in October as its new Chief Financial Officer. In his new position, Green will be responsible for managing central financial functions, including accounting and financial reporting, budgeting and planning, the long-term debt portfolio and treasury services. Green replaced David Rubenstein who retired in September after 15 years at Georgetown. Mr. Green is a graduate of Virginia Wesleyan University and GW where he received his MBA in 2005; and
• Benjamin Kuo, an Associate Vice President at Cornell University, who joined **Georgetown University** in December as its new Vice President for Planning and Facilities Management. Mr. Kuo served as Associate Vice President of Facilities Management at Cornell since 2014. At **Georgetown**, Kuo will oversee the divisions of master planning, campus and strategic planning, facilities management, design and construction, transportation, real state, sustainability, recycling, business, and energy and utilities. During the 1990’s, Kuo worked at the Environmental Protection Agency, providing regulatory development services advice. While there, he says, he developed an admiration for **Georgetown’s** beautiful campus as well as its role as a global leader in higher education. Kuo holds degrees in chemical engineering and public policy from Carnegie Mellon University.

Carol Kissal was named **George Mason University**’s senior Vice President for Finance and Administration. Kissal came to **Mason** from Emory University, where she was VP of Finance and Chief Financial Officer since 2014. Prior to that, Kissal spent six years as Deputy General Manager of Administration and Chief Financial Officer at the Washington Metropolitan Transit Authority (WMATA). Earlier in her career she was treasurer of Amtrak. She also served as Deputy Director of the District Department of Transportation in Washington, DC.

**American University’s School of International Service (SIS)** welcomed new Dean Christine BN Chin, the first woman to lead the institution. Dr. Chin views her new role as a personal milestone and a sign that she has come full circle. She earned her PhD at **SIS** in the 1990’s and now she wants to elevate her beloved institution to even greater heights. ”My vision for the school is that we should have a global presence and footprint, because the issues we deal with recognize—but also don’t recognize—borders,” she says.

Renée McDonald Hutchins has been selected as the new Dean of the **David A. Clarke School of Law (UDC Law)**, home to a nationally ranked clinical program. Hutchins began her term on April 17. Dean Hutchins, who was chosen through a national search, will bring to **UDC Law** a wealth of experience at the leading edge of clinical legal education and scholarship in a public law school setting. Since 2004, Hutchins has been on the faculty at the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, serving as the Jacob A. France Professor of Public Interest Law, Co-Director of the school’s nationally recognized Clinical Law Program and Founding Director of the Appellate and Post-Conviction Advocacy Clinic. She has also served as a Visiting Professor of Law and Acting Director of the Criminal Appeals and Post-Conviction Services Clinic at **George Washington University’s Law School**. Dean Hutchins, who is an active litigator, is widely recognized as an expert on the Fourth Amendment and criminal appellate practice. She graduated cum laude with a BA in mathematics from Spelman College and received her JD from Yale Law School.

In February, **Georgetown Law** professor Jane Aiken (L’85), who leads the university’s Task Force on Gender Equity and whose commitment to justice is said to be the ”overarching, governing principle of her career,” was installed as the inaugural **Blume Professor**. The position was made possible through a gift from Georgetown alum Bruce Blume and his wife Ann, who are parents of 2008 **Georgetown** graduate and a soon-to-be (Class of 2020) **Georgetown** graduate. As a
**Blume Professor**, Aiken will focus on matters of justice related to the **Georgetown Law** mission. After coming to **Georgetown Law** in 2007, Aiken founded the Community Justice Project clinic to enable students to represent clients in cases involving questions of justice. She recently traveled to the U.S.-Mexico border through the Ignation Colleagues program to study issues raised by the treatment of migrants. (For more on **Blume Scholars**, see Campus Support).

Betsy Fischer Martin, an Emmy-winning journalist and former longtime executive producer of *Meet the Press*, has been named the new Executive Director of **American University’s Woman and Politics Institute (WPI)**. Ms. Fischer Martin spent 23 years at *NBC News*, including 11 years as the Executive Producer of “Meet the Press.” She has also contributed to *MORE* magazine and *Bloomberg Politics’* “Masters in Politics,” a political podcast about prominent political figures. “I can’t think of a more exciting time to be at the epicenter of a university that recognizes the importance of women’s political leadership and is dedicated to furthering academic research and empowering students and young women to engage in the political system,” said Fischer Martin. “The fact that **American University** played such a significant role in shaping my career in political journalism makes returning to lead **WPI** all the more meaningful to me.” (For more about Professor Fischer Martin’s activities, see *Big Men (and Women) on Campus* and *The Place to Be*);

Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh joined the faculty of **George Mason University’s Scalia Law School** this past spring with his course taking place this summer in Runnymede, England. Justice Kavanaugh is currently co-teaching a two-credit summer course from July through August entitled “Creation of the Constitution.” Runnymede, England is the site of the signing of the Magna Carta more than 800 years ago. His co-instructor is Jennifer Mascott, an Assistant Professor of Law at **GMU** who served as a clerk to then Judge Kavanaugh when he was on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit.

Critically acclaimed filmmaker Maggie Burnette Stogner, who has more than 30 years of documentary filmmaking experience, has been named Executive Director of **American University’s Center for Environmental Filmmaking**. Under her leadership, Stogner will work to expand the **Center** to emphasize the critical environmental issues of today and the need for diversity and inclusion every step of the way. The **Center** is one of only a few centers of its kind in the world where students learn how to make environmental and wildlife films, digital shorts from start to finish, and how to use Ar/VR, game design, and other emerging media platforms to create content.

Matt Blaze, an expert in computer and network security and one of the world’s leading cryptographers, joined **Georgetown University** in a joint appointment with the **Department of Computer Science** and **Georgetown Law**. He will serve as the Robert L. McDevitt K.S.G., K.C.H.S. and Catherine H. McDevitt L.C.H.S. Chair in the **Department of Computer Science**. Dr. Blaze was previously affiliated with the University of Pennsylvania where he focused on a variety of issues including security technology, public policy, and wiretapping and surveillance issues. He previously testified before Congress on the security of electronic voting systems. **Georgetown Law** Executive Vice President and Dean William Treanor expressed excitement about welcoming Professor Blaze noting that his appointment to the faculty would bolster the **Law Center’s** focus on technology.
This fall, American University welcomed 24 new tenure-line professors spread across the university’s schools. Among them are:

- **In the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS):**
  - Onaje Woodbine, a Tenure-Track Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Religion. His book, *Black Gods of the Asphalt: Religion, Hip-Hop, and Street Basketball*, has been optioned for a TV series by *Moonlight* actor André Holland. Professor Woodbine will focus on marginalized communities’ use of religion and spirituality as a mode of survival and a way to reclaim their humanity. He is excited about engaging such communities at AU;
  - Amelia Tseng, an Assistant Professor in the World Languages and Cultures Department. Professor Tseng will research the nexus between language, society and identity, with a focus on immigration communities in multicultural settings. Professor Tseng earned a PhD from *Georgetown University* and through her research appointment at the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage focused on why DC Latino immigrants’ language sounded so similar to local African-American dialects. She hopes to focus on this diversity as both a DC resident and a scholar;
  - Chun-His Huang, a Professor of Computer Science. Professor Huang will work on such subjects as extreme-scale computing and data analytics;
  - Laurie Bayet, an Assistant Professor of Psychology. Professor Bayet will focus on cognitive neuroscience methods, child development and infants, and developmental psychology;
  - David Gerard, an Assistant Professor of Mathematics and Statistics;
  - Alex Goodwin, an Assistant Professor of Computer Science;
  - Mark Nelson, an Assistant Professor of Computer Science; and
  - Kareem Rabie, an Assistant Professor of Anthropology. Professor Rabie will be teaching and researching contemporary Israel/Palestine relations, cultural anthropology and human geography and global political economy;

- **In the School of Public Affairs (SPA):**
  - Assistant Professor Cladia Persico. Professor Persico will examine how air pollution is, in some cases, an invisible factor driving socioeconomic inequality. Professor Persico has previously researched how toxic releases impact schools nearby and how children are impacted by nearby Superfund sites. She plans to continue researching issues around health, education, inequality and the environment at AU;
  - Andrew Ballard, an Assistant Professor of Government. Professor Ballard will specialize in areas such as congressional elections and institutions;
  - Janice Iwama, an Assistant Professor of Justice, Law and Criminology. Professor Iwama’s teaching and research will focus on bias/hate crimes and policing;
  - Lallen Johnson, also an Assistant Professor of Justice, Law and Criminology. Professor Johnson will focus on such issues as race and justice, communities and crime, and urban crime patterns; and
  - David Malet, an Assistant Professor of Justice, Law and Criminology. Professor Malet will research in the areas of homeland security, bioterrorism, and political violence;

- **In the School of International Service (SIS):**
Jesse Ribot who has spent decades probing what it means to be an “environmentalist.” Professor Ribot has explored this question while studying the political economy of environmental management in Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, and Latin America, pushing for local representation as decisions were made about the environment. Arriving at AU after serving as a Guggenheim Fellow, he plans to bring his many years of working in the environmental arena—from serving in the Solar Energy Research Institute to working at the World Resources Institute—to the university where he hopes to both teach and mentor students; and

- Dotain Haim, an Assistant Professor;

- In the Kogod School of Business (Kogod):
  - Heng Xu, a Professor of Information Technology and Analytics. Professor Xu will serve as Director of the Kogod Cybersecurity Governance Center. Professor Xu has specialized in data privacy for 15 years and hopes, after the revelations of the Facebook-Cambridge Analytica scandal to the wider public, will begin to take notice of the need for care in protecting data. At Kogod, she plans to focus on business executives’ critical role in safeguarding data and infrastructure;
  - Nan Zhang, a Professor of Information Technology and Analytics;
  - Asad Kausar, an Associate Professor of Accounting and Taxation;
  - Ali Sanati, an Assistant Professor of Finance and Real Estate. Professor Sanati will specialize in areas such as empirical corporate finance and corporate investment; and
  - Mikhail Wolfson, an Assistant Professor of Management. Professor Wolfson will focus on issues such as team composition and informal learning;

- In the School of Communication (SOC):
  - Assistant Professor Saif Shahin who will continue his focus on social networking sites and their impact. He’s particularly interested in how emerging technologies bring socio political changes to countries like China and India, as well as the impact of these technologies on the intersection between social media and politics in the U.S. He appreciates DC’s cosmopolitanism which, he says, appeals to his journalistic sensibilities;
  - Caty Borum Chattoo, Director of the Center for Media and Social Impact, who has been named an Assistant Professor on Tenure Track. (For more on Professor Chattoo, see Research and Tech); and
  - Krzysztof Pietroszek, an Assistant Professor, who will focus on virtual and augmented reality;

- In the School of Education, Robert Shand, an Assistant Professor of Education. Professor Shand will focus on teacher labor markets and educational opportunities for disadvantaged students; and

- In the Washington College of Law, Hilary Allen, an Associate Professor. Professor Allen will focus on securities regulation, corporate finance and banking law.

Several Consortium member faculty and staff announced they were moving on including:

- Michael S. Allen, Ph.D., currently Vice President for Student Affairs at The Catholic University of America, who has been named the seventh president of Barry University in Miami, Florida;
Jeffrey S. Akman, Vice President for Health Affairs and Dean of the George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences (SMHS) and Walter A. Bloedorn Professor of Administrative Medicine, who announced on January 17 that he would be stepping down from his roles as Vice President and SMHS Dean following eight years in the administrative positions. Dr. Akman, (MD ’81), will remain in both roles until they can be filled by a successor, at which time he will return to the faculty. A search commenced shortly thereafter;

George Washington University Law School Dean and Robert Kramer Research Professor of Law Blake D. Morant, who on February 4 announced that he would step down from his role leading the school at the end of the 2018-2019 academic year. After a sabbatical, Mr. Morant will join the faculty of GW Law; and

George Mason University’s Neomi Rao, who had previously taken leave of her position as an Associate Professor in the Antonin Scalia Law School to serve in the Office of Management and Budget. While at the Scalia Law School, Professor Rao headed the Center for the Study of the Administrative State focusing on the political and constitutional accountability of administrative agencies and the role of Congress. In March 2019, she was confirmed by the U.S. Senate to fill Judge Brett Kavanaugh’s vacant seat on the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. (For more on Professor Neomi Rao, see Big Men (and Women) on Campus.)

Big Men (and Women) on Campus

On September 21, nearly 200 people gathered at American University’s Abramson Family Recital Hall at the Katzen Arts Center to hear former American Ballet Theater Prima Ballerina (and current Washington Ballet Theater Artistic Director) Julie Kent speak about artistic expression, the DC performing arts scene, motherhood, the importance of character and leadership in the arts. AU President Sylvia Burwell introduced Ms. Kent and spoke highly of the AU dance program.

On September 24, Neomi Rao, the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, joined her predecessors from the Obama, Bush, and Clinton administrations to discuss the 25th anniversary of the Regulatory Planning and Review Executive Order, which has guided regulatory oversight since 1993. The George Washington University Regulatory Studies Center hosted the event in partnership with the Society for Benefit-Cost Analysis; the American Bar Association Section of Administrative Law and Regulatory Practice; and GW’s Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration. Ms. Rao previously taught at the George Mason University Antonin Scalia Law School. (For more on Professor Neomi Rao, see Movers and Shakers.)

Congressmen Peter King (R-NY), Henry Cuellar (D-TX) and John Delaney (D-MD) visited American University on September 26 to share their takes on bipartisanship in Congress. The event was sponsored by the AU School of Public Affairs (SPA), The Hill, and the Kennedy Political Union. The three men talked about the tension between getting things done and “betraying” one’s political party concluding that, in the end, striking deals and talking across the aisle will be the only path to legislative success.
On September 28, the Walsh School of Foreign Service (SFS) at Georgetown University welcomed back alumnus Taro Kono (SFS ‘86), the Foreign Minister of Japan, for the second Lloyd George Centennial Lecture on the Future of Globalization. Minister Kono delivered remarks and then engaged in a conversation with Dr. Michael Green, Director of Georgetown’s Asian Studies Program and took questions from the audience. Minister Kono offered remarks about the current state of Japanese relations with the United States, North Korea, China, Russia and the Middle East. He added that Japan and the United States “share a responsibility to promote peace, stability and prosperity” and that Russia is an indispensable stakeholder in multiple international challenges.” The Lloyd George Lecture Series is named for British Prime Minister David Lloyd George, who attempted to craft a new, more peaceful world in 1919 after the conclusion of World War I. The Lloyd family has generously underwritten the cost of the lecture series. (For more on the Lloyd George lecture series, see the item below on former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.)

Former U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry visited Georgetown University on October 4 and told the audience that democracy was “in trouble” because of “absence of leadership to hold people accountable.” The former Senator conversed with retired Rear Admiral John Kirby, who teaches a course called “National Security and Communications” for Georgetown’s Master of Science in Foreign Service program which hosted the event. Despite his warning, Secretary Kerry expressed optimism noting “We’ve been through really tough times in this country before. I have total confidence in our institutions in our country.”

January 2019 started on a high note for Trinity Washington University with MSNBC broadcasting a special Town Hall from campus on January 4th from Trinity’s campus featuring newly-elected Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (’62) a graduate of Trinity, being interviewed by MSNBC host Joy Ann Reid. Some highlights from the broadcast:

- MSNBC transformed an iconic space in Trinity’s Main Hall into an amazing television set;
- Speaker Pelosi was introduced by Trinity graduate and current student Airen Washington. During the broadcast, five other Trinity students also participated by asking the Speaker questions about health care, immigration and other topics; and
- “Know Your Power,” the Speaker’s signature theme, was a memorable response to a student who asked Speaker Pelosi how she learned to cope with critics while being firm and focused in her leadership.

This was Speaker Pelosi’s first television interview after she was sworn in the day before. “The Speaker: MSNBC Town Hall with Nancy Pelosi;” was taped in the morning and broadcast that evening and again that weekend. Veteran reporter Barbara Harrison, with the NBC affiliate, NBC4, taped a segment about the special relationship between Speaker Pelosi and Trinity. (For more on Nancy Pelosi and Trinity, see Lead Stories; Spotlight: Presidents; and The Place to Be.)

The George Washington University and local book store Politics & Prose cohosted three events:

- On January 9, Senator (and presidential candidate) Kamala Harris, (D-CA), discussed her new book, The Truths We Hold, with Jonathan Capehart, writer for The Washington Post’s PostPartisan blog and contributor for MSNBC. Senator Harris explored the themes of her book and shared her vision of our shared struggle, purpose and values (For more on Senator Harris, see Life After College);
On January 23, *Washington Post* journalist and School of Media and Public Affairs (SMPA) Terker Distinguished Fellow Jason Rezaian discussed his new book, *Prisoner*, about his experience as a prisoner in Iran, with SMPA Director Frank Sesno. In *Prisoner*, Mr. Rezaian writes of his exhausting interrogations and farcical trial, his bond with his Iranian father and his life-changing decision to move to Tehran; and

On March 23, award-winning author Laurie Halse Anderson discussed *Shout*, a searing poetic memoir for the #MeToo era with special guest Jill Filipovic.

On February 6, former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton talked at *Georgetown University* about the nuclear arms treaty with Russia, the turmoil in Venezuela and U.S. relations with its European allies during a symposium on the "Future of Diplomacy." Former Ambassador to Russia Bill Burns moderated the conversation with Clinton during a keynote event that was part of a half-day symposium, bringing together noted diplomats, foreign service professionals and academic leaders for a series of conversations examining foreign affairs and American leadership in the world. The *Institute of Politics and Public Service, McCourt School of Foreign Service* (SFS) co-sponsored the forum which was part of SFS's Lloyd George Centennial Lectures on the Future of Global Order. (For more on the Lloyd George Lecture Series, see item above about Japanese Foreign Minister Tara Kono.)

Faculty from the *America University School of Public Affairs* (SPA) joined the Ripon Society and SPA’s annual Senior Faculty Symposium on Leadership at Mount Vernon, VA. The daylong event drew over 100 top Republican and Democratic senior staff and congressional aides to the historic estate of George Washington for a series of speeches, discussions, and sessions that focused on Capitol Hill challenges. SPA faculty taught sessions on team building, mindful leadership, and managing up. The symposium ended with a moderated discussion between Betsy Fischer Martin, Executive Director of SPA’s *Women and Politics Institute* (WPI) and the Pulitzer Prize winning historian Doris Kearns Goodwin focused on Goodwin’s newest book *Leadership in Turbulent Times*. (For more on Professor Fischer-Martin’s activities, see Campus Movers and Shakers and The Place to Be).

*Georgetown University Law* student Ana Elena Khouri (LLM’19) who is also president of *Georgetown Law’s Columbian Law Students Association*, worked with her fellow LLM student Francisco Pamplona (LLM ’19) to bring Columbian President (and *Georgetown* alumnus) Iván Duque Márquez (G’07), to campus. Their efforts were rewarded when President Márquez sat down to a conversation with Khouri before an audience of students on February 14. President Márquez spoke about his country’s efforts to assist the people of Venezuela in their struggle against the dictatorship of Nicolás Maduro as well as the first month of his presidency. President Márquez was in town to meet with President Donald Trump.

Dozens of capital-area executives gathered at the *George Washington University Virginia Science and Technology Campus* on February 19 for a discussion with U.S. Rep. Jennifer Wexton, (D-VA). The event, hosted at Exploration Hall in partnership with the Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce, brought together leaders from healthcare, banking, construction, information technology, consulting and nonprofit industries to hear about Ms. Wexton’s priorities and ask questions during an hour-long discussion. It was Ms. Wexton’s first meeting with the Loudoun County business community since taking office in January. *GW President Thomas*
LeBlanc made welcoming remarks, and participants talked about issues ranging from expediting the security clearance process to developing better talent pipelines for high-demand fields such as cybersecurity and health care.

An event hosted on February 26 by American University’s School of Public Affairs (SPA), the AU Kennedy Political Union, and the Hill news organization, featured a bipartisan group of U.S. senators and representatives discussing criminal justice reform legislation including U.S. Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD), and U.S. Congressional Representatives Jim Clyburn (D-SC), Doug Collins (R-GA), and Stacey Plaskett (D-USVI) headlined the event, along with advocates Nicole Porter of the Sentencing Project and Topeka Sam of the Ladies of Hope Ministries. The panel talked about fair sentencing and improved prison conditions. The event was one in a series on bipartisanship, sponsored by AU’s SPA, Kennedy Political Union and The Hill news organization.

Juan Manuel Santos, former president of Colombia, spoke with Georgetown University alumnus Ambassador Jeffrey DeLaurentis (SFS’76) at Georgetown on February 26 in an event titled “Port of Destiny: Peace Film Screening and Conversation with Former President of Columbia Juan Manuel Santos.” The negotiations leading up to the historic Peace Accord signed between the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Columbia (FARC) and the Columbian government was the subject of the film screened and discussed at the event. In 2016, President Santos won a Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts on the agreement on behalf of the Columbian government.

On March 1, the George Washington University Columbian College of Arts and Sciences’ Cisneros Hispanic Leadership Institute hosted a discussion with U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor and actress Eva Longoria Bastón in Lisner Auditorium on campus.

American University held a panel entitled “Changemakers in a Changing World: Lessons for the Next Generation” on March 5. Moderated by AU President Sylvia Burwell, the panel featured Susan E. Rice, former National Security Advisor and Ambassador to the United Nations; Ibram X. Kendi, Professor and Director of the Antiracist Research and Policy Center; Eric Liu, Founder and CEO of Citizen University; and Broadcast Journalist Maria Elena Salinas. Discussion focused on race, culture, and the panelists’ challenges and successes.

Award-winning filmmaker Ken Burns came to Georgetown University on March 11 to talk with university leaders, faculty and students about the power of education and the use of narrative to address critical societal issues. His latest visit was part of Burns and Georgetown’s extended engagement over the last decade as the university and filmmaker explore how to deepen their relationship. At the March 11 gathering, Burns introduced his colleague Lynn Novick to debut screen clips from a new documentary series entitled, College Behind Bars which chronicles the lives of a dozen incarcerated men and women as they struggle to earn degrees through the Bard Prison Initiative. The event also included Georgetown President John DeGioia hosting a panel with law professor Marc Howard, who heads Georgetown’s Prison Reform Project course; Associate Professor of Law Shon Hopwood; and Brian Ferguson, Executive Director of the DC Mayor’s Office on Returning Citizen Affairs who was also wrongfully convicted and spent 11 years behind bars. (For more about Professor Howard and Brian Ferguson, see Spotlight: Students.)
On March 18, then-Secretary of Homeland Security Kirstjen M. Nielsen discussed a range of topics at an event hosted by the Auburn University Center for Cyber and Homeland Security at George Washington University’s Jack Morton Auditorium, including her priorities for 2019 and her vision for a safer, more secure homeland in the years to come.

On March 19, the Department of Computer Science in the George Washington University School of Engineering and Applied Science (SEA), in collaboration with the GW chapter of the Association for Computing Machinery, hosted a talk with Vint Cerf, a Father of the Internet and the recipient of both the National Medal of Technology and the Turing Award. He discussed the origins of the Internet and his vision for its future, followed by a question and answer session.

American University Washington College of Law (AUWCL) hosted the Fourth National People of Color Legal Scholarship Conference (NPOC19) from March 21 to 24. Thirty-five law schools from across the country and other key partners co-sponsored the conference with the proceedings published in prestigious law reviews and journals. NPOC19 attracted 350 speakers and 550 attendees. Participating in various panels were Congressman Jamie Raskin, Chair of the House Civil Rights/Civil Liberties Oversight Subcommittee and Vice Chair of the House Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution; Khizr Khan, Gold Star Father; Hon. Catherine Lhamon, Chair of the United States Commission on Civil Rights; Thomas Saenz, President and General Counsel of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund; Vanita Gupta, President and CEO of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights; Sherrilyn Ifill, President and Director-Counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund; and AU President Sylvia Burwell, among others.

The University of the District of Columbia Institute of Politics, Policy and History (IPPH) hosted a series of speakers during the spring semester. At the second of the series on March 26, DC Mayor Muriel Bowser welcomed special guests to a panel entitled “Inflection Point: Women in the House including U.S. Representatives Ayanna Pressley (D-MA); Elizabeth “Liz” Cheney (R-WY); Hon. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC); Dr. Jamey Ann Piland, Director of Women’s Studies, Trinity Washington University; and Hon. Connie Morella (Former Congresswoman, R-MD). Michael Steele, MSNBC analyst and former Chairman of the Republican National Committee and former Lt. Governor of Maryland, moderated the panel. (For more about the IPPH, see New Initiatives.)

For Spring Semester, George Washington University President Thomas LeBlanc kicked off the Presidential Distinguished Event Series, a new series connecting students to renowned speakers and performers. All GW students were invited to take advantage of the complimentary tickets to these exclusive events. At the first event of the series on March 27, Pulitzer Prize-winning historian and host of the 2019 White House Correspondents’ Dinner Ron Chernow discussed his journey from writing an Alexander Hamilton biography to inspiring Lin-Manuel Miranda’s Broadway musical, Hamilton. The conversation was followed by a question and answer session moderated by GW alumna and historian Lindsay Chervinsky.

In April, Howard University sponsored the 2018-2019 Gwendolyn S. and Colbert I. King Endowed Chair in Public Policy Lecture Series on campus. Chaired by political strategist and author Donna Brazile, speakers included:

- House Speaker Nancy Pelosi addressing a range of political topics;
Letitia “Tish” James, Attorney General for the State of New York and alumna of Howard University Law School speaking on “The Fierce Urgency of Now;”

U.S. Congresswomen Eleanor Homes Norton (D-DC); Karen Bass (D-CA); and Yvette Clark (D-NY) discussing women in politics; and

U.S. Congressman Elijah Cummings (D-MD) (and Howard alumnus) discussing Civic Engagement and the Future of Democracy.

Howard University President Dr. Wayne A.I. Frederick gave remarks before each event.

**SPOTLIGHT: STUDENTS**

Consortium member students have been awarded important prizes, fellowships and research grants including:

- **Howard University** where:
  - Senior Jessica Hernandez was named a 2019 USAID Donald M. Payne International Development Graduate Fellow. The Payne Graduate Fellowship attracts outstanding individuals interested in pursuing careers in the Foreign Service at the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). As a Payne Fellow, Hernandez will receive financial assistance toward tuition and fees for the completion of a two-year master’s degree at a U.S. institution, as well as stipends for each academic year. In 2018, Hernandez was awarded a Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Scholarship. With that scholarship, Hernandez will attend Columbia University to pursue a master’s degree in international affairs with a focus on human rights and humanitarian policy, specializing in Latin America (See below for more information about the Rangel Fellows Program); and
  - Senior Elizabeth Le was named a 2019 Rangel Fellow. The Rangel Program is a U.S. Department of State initiative that aims to enhance the excellence and diversity of the US Foreign Service. Le, a daughter of North Vietnamese refugees, plans to combine her experience and work toward global peace. After her undergraduate studies, Le plans to pursue a master’s degree in international conflict resolution and work towards a career in foreign service. While a Rangel Scholar, she will complete an internship on Capitol Hill and overseas as a diplomat in a U.S. Embassy or Consulate as well as receive up to $37,500 annually for tuition, fees and expenses;

- At Catholic University of America where Marcela Duque Ramirez, a CUA School of Philosophy graduate student, was awarded a prize in Spain for a volume of poetry she had written. Ramirez is slated to be an CUA FYE Teaching Fellow in the fall;

- At George Mason University where Doctoral candidate Carol Dniel, received an American Fellowship from the American Association of University Women (AAUW), an award for women studying full time or completing doctoral research. In addition, Mason’s Janet Marroquin received a Career Development Grant from the same organization. Her grant is designed for women returning to school at least five years after earning their bachelor’s degrees. She is pursuing a Master’s Degree in Biodefense. The AAUW is dedicated to tackling barriers women face in education;

- At Georgetown University where:
  - Emilio Joubert (C’19), who speaks four languages even though he struggled in high
school, was this year’s McTighe Prize winner. The prize is awarded every year to an outstanding undergraduate who demonstrates achievement in scholarship and service to the university and its surrounding community. (For more on Mr. Joubert, see Class Notes);

○ Paula Chan (G’15), a Ph.D. candidate in the History Department, received a 2018-19 Visiting Fellowship at the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, part of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Her research focuses on Stalin’s Soviet Extraordinary State Commission, created in 1942 to document violent crimes and material losses from the Nazi occupation. The Commission generated 43,000 files but only became available to researchers after the collapse of the Soviet Union;

○ Yu “Angela” Bai (C’17) has been awarded a Gates Cambridge Scholarship which she hopes to use to pursue a career in sustainable urban planning. Bai was one of only 90 students worldwide to receive this Scholarship. Gates Cambridge Scholarships are awarded to outstanding applicants from countries outside the United Kingdom to pursue a full-time postgraduate degree in any subject available at the University of Cambridge. Bai plans to enroll in the MPhil Program in Architecture and Urban Studies at Cambridge. She is the 6th Georgetown student to be so honored;

○ Alex Brillman was awarded a Whittington Scholarship given to a second-year McCourt School of Public Policy student who excels academically and displays a strong commitment to serving the community. Brillman (MPP’20) has worked tirelessly to disseminate information about environmental happenings in DC and reduce Georgetown’s carbon footprint. He was recently elected president of the McCourt Energy and Environment Club;

○ Erika Bullock (C’17) won a prestigious Knight-Hennessy Scholarship to pursue studies at Stanford University. Only 69 scholars are so selected worldwide. She plans to use her scholarship to explore the history of higher education innovation in order to develop structural and pedagogical reforms to help students flourish. She will also continue her pursuit of a PhD in the Social Sciences, Humanities, and Interdisciplinary Policy Studies (SHIPS) Program in Higher Education at Stanford Graduate School of Education;

○ Thu Dao (NHS’17) was selected for a grant through the Fulbright U.S. Student Program to conduct research on C-section rates in Vietnam. Dao majored in international health at the School of Nursing & Health Studies, and will use her expertise to research the sociocultural and economic influences on the rising rate of non-medically necessary cesarean sections in urban centers in Vietnam through surveys and in-depth interviews with key stakeholders;

○ Brian Ferguson (C’18) was once wrongfully incarcerated for homicide. He was exonerated after serving 11 years of a life sentence. Once released, he who won a prestigious Marshall Scholarship to pursue a Masters of Comparative Social Policy at the University of Oxford, in Oxford, England. He is one of only 48 students across the nation to receive the award. Ferguson will study leading international policy trends and approaches to social policy and criminal justice reform, then apply the results to comprehensive and collaborative effort between governments and leading universities to develop effective policy solutions. Eventually, Ferguson hopes to attend law school at either Yale or Georgetown;
Wookjae Jung (SFS’15), a former Korean Air Force officer, has been selected as a Schwarzman Scholar, winning one of the most selective postgraduate scholarships in the world. The scholarship pays for a one-year Master’s Degree in Global Affairs at Tsinghua University’s Schwartzman College in Beijing, China. The Schwarzman Scholars Class of 2020, selected from more than 2,800 applicants, is the third School of Foreign Service (SFS) graduate and the fourth Georgetown alumni member to be selected for the fellowship;

Grace Maglieri (C’19) received two awards from the Clare Boothe Luce Program, which supports women conducting research in the natural sciences. Maglieri has worked in the physics lab of Edward Van Keuren since her first year at Georgetown. Her research uses a special type of dye to calculate the parameters of interaction for solvents, polymers and powders, in order to protect interactions between those chemicals and choose components for optimal use. With the assistance of the Clare Booth Luce Summer Research Scholarship, she was able to continue her research over the summer of 2018 and throughout the academic year 2018-2019. She hopes to continue her academic career pursuing a PhD in physics;

Andy Marshall (G’22), a Ph.D. candidate in government, is planning to compare and contrast the role of roughly 40 different languages in Kenya and 120 languages in Tanzania as a Fulbright-Scholar to assess the impact on each country’s identity, structure and culture. Marshall received a Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship in February. Andy has multiple degrees from Consortium schools including a Master’s Degree in International Affairs from American University. He hopes to use his eventual PhD to “do something on African politics;”

George Melchor, Jr. (G’22) researches molecular signatures that could one day lead to developing therapeutics that help in the recovery of patients with multiple sclerosis (MS). He is one of eight Georgetown students awarded a Patrick Healy Graduate Fellowship, a program designed to recruit and retain students underrepresented in doctoral programs who want to pursue careers academia. Melchor is focused on completing a PhD from Georgetown’s Interdisciplinary Program in Neuroscience;

Bianca Uribe (C’19) was selected as a Rangel International Affairs Fellowship. She is majoring in Anthropology with minors in Spanish and Portuguese. In the summer before her senior year at Georgetown, she traveled to Peru to research how Afro-Peruvians construct informal systems of healing in response to inadequate health care systems. Her work there was acknowledge with two honors including the Kalorama Fellowship from the Office of Global Engagement and the Scott MacPherson Stapleton Award from the Anthropology Department. She previously studied abroad in Brazil which spurred her interest in foreign affairs; and

Lawrence Huang and Susu Zhao, both seniors in Georgetown College, received the annual Chester Gillis Award for exemplifying the value of a liberal arts education in the Jesuit tradition. Huang, a government major is working on his honors thesis examining Hannah Arendt’s political theories as they relate to refugees, border policy and migration. Zhao, who is majoring in Justice and Peace Studies with minors in Disability Studies and Chinese, hopes to pursue a law degree while also taking a course with Randall Amster, who co-directs the Justice and Peace Program.
On March 19, ten DC high school students learned that they had received full-ride, four-year Stephen Joel Trachtenberg Scholarships to George Washington University. GW President Thomas LeBlanc, GW Dean of Admissions Costas Solomou, and the GW awards team spent the day traveling to eight schools in Washington, DC, hand-delivering acceptance letters and the news that students and their families no longer had to worry about how to pay for college. The scholarship covers the full cost of their college education—four years of tuition, room, board, books and fees. Multiple news outlets attended an event announcement at Frank W. Ballou High School.

Also receiving a four-year, full-ride scholarships were five students admitted to the McCourt School of Public Policy at Georgetown University. All five students were recognized for their accomplishments and promise as policymakers including:

- Lillian Alexander, who has made a career of investigating and addressing climate change and its impacts on food insecurity;
- Rafael Contreras, a native Venezuelan, who most recently worked for the Inter-American Development Bank;
- Lincoln Foran, a vice president advising firms in the North American metals and mining sectors;
- Linn Groft, an expert on underserved middle-school students; and
- Forest Jarvis, an expert on environmental degradation and eroding natural defenses.

Several Consortium member students were named 2019 Campus Compact Mid-Atlantic Newman Civic Fellows. Through the Fellowship, the Campus Compact, a Maryland-D.C partnership which enhances resources for service learning initiatives, provides a variety of learning and networking opportunities emphasizing personal, professional and civic growth. Each year, Fellows are invited to a national conference of Newman Civic Fellows in partnership with the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate. The Fellowship also provides Fellows with pathways to apply for exclusive scholarships and post-graduate opportunities: 2019 Fellows within the Consortium include:

- Isabella Dominique from American University;
- Maureen Albero from George Washington University;
- Taurjhai Quinay Purdie, Georgetown University;
- Fawziyah Alebiosu, Prince George’s Community College;
- Katie Connolly, Catholic University of America; and
- Shanekia Bowra, the University of the District of Columbia.

On September 19, Valentino Dixon, a man imprisoned for 27 years, was released in no small part due to three Georgetown University students who worked diligently for his release in their Spring Semester 2018 class. The three challenged his wrongful murder conviction and advocated for his freedom as part of Professor Marc Howard’s “Prison Reform Project” seminar. Julia Fragonas and Naoya Johnson, who were at Georgetown as part of a study abroad program, and Isobella Goonetillake (COL ’18), worked alongside forensic and legal professionals to investigate the case. One of Dixon’s lawyers said the Georgetown students’ work was instrumental in calling attention to Dixon’s case and providing additional resources and information that were key in his release. In November, Mr. Dixon came to Georgetown and met with the students to thank them for their work. (For more about Professor Howard, see Big Men (and Women) on Campus).
George Washington University Junior Shirali Nigam of the GW Department of Biomedical Engineering was recently selected to serve a three-year term on the Education Committee of the National Biomedical Engineering Society (BMES). She is the only undergraduate student on the committee of 11 people. The BMES Education Committee is charged with assessing and providing educational opportunities to enhance professional development, fostering educational best practices and working with accreditation committees.

Consortium member nursing students are high performers:
- At Catholic University nursing students came away from the 2018 National Council Licensure Examination with an impressive 98.57% pass rate for first-time test takers; and
- At Marymount University,
  - The first-time pass rate on Traditional BSN Program was 94%;
  - The first-time pass rate on Accelerated BSN Program was 96%; and
  - The first-time pass rate on Graduate AANP FNP Certification was 100%.

Reacting to news that the economic history of Georgetown University was tied to the slave trade, Georgetown students voted in April on a referendum which would pose a “reconciliation fee” on each undergraduate annually—in effect reparations—to benefit the descendants of a particular group of 272 enslaved people. They were enslaved in what is now Prince George’s County when, in 1838, the Maryland Province of the Society of Jesus (The Jesuits) decided to sell them to raise money for a financially strapped Georgetown University. The university made a formal apology for the action in 2017. In response to the student vote, Georgetown President John J. DeGioia wrote an open letter to campus writing “We are pursuing work that is uncharted.” The amount of the fee, to be paid each semester, is a symbolic $27.20, reflecting the 272 slaves sold. An estimated $400,000 will be collected a year to benefit more than 8,000 descendants of the 272 identified. The vote in favor of the referendum was 66 percent.

George Washington University medical students joined together in a Match Day ceremony on March 15 where they simultaneously opened envelopes with medical students across the country revealing where they will conduct their residency training. Match Day is a national program where the National Match Program releases results simultaneously nationwide to applicants seeking residency and fellowship training partners in the United States.

Georgetown University issued a series of press releases throughout the fall and spring featuring students as subjects including:
- Kalif Robinson, a student in Georgetown University’s Master of Science in Foreign Service program, who was one of five individuals featured in the 2018 documentary Unlikely, which explores the barriers underrepresented students face pursuing undergraduate degrees. The film followed Robinson’s senior year at Georgia State University four years after he became the first in his family to graduate from college. Robinson arrived at Georgetown after working as an Africa Policy Fellow for Rep. Karen Bass (D-CA). He said he picked Georgetown because of its balance between theoretical framework and real life application. He views the MSFS degree as equipping him with the skills to be a change agent in the realms of foreign policy and diplomacy;
Eric Witherspoon (G’22), a Ph.D. Candidate in Pharmacology arrived on campus planning to become the best scientist he can be. He spent his first summer working on the expression and function of a splice variety of the ion channel, TRPV1, in the Grueneberg Ganglion nerves. Through this work, he is hoping to better understand how mice detect fear;

Kojo Adjepong-Boateng’s (G’19), a student in the Master of Science in Foreign Service (MSFS) Program, who came to the university with experience across the public and private sectors, having spent time working with the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, Rolling Stone magazine, UBS Wealth Management and the International Crisis Group (ICG). He graduated from Trinity College, Dublin with Honors Degree in History and speaks Afrikaans and French. He plans to use his MSFS to work at a public-private partnership with a focus on social justice. He is also planning to take the LSAT in November;

The Georgetown University Emergency Response Medical Service (GERMS) which is one of the first and largest all-volunteer, award-winning student-run such services in the country. Operating 24/7 during the school year and summer with a two-ambulance fleet and a 77-member trained crew. GERMS answers hundreds of calls annually, helping students with everything from sprained ankles to mental health emergencies. Lindsey Caines (NHS’19), a Human Sciences Major from Rochester, New York, serves as Crew Chief and Vice President of Operations on the GERMS Executive Board and serves closely with Dr. Jose Victor Nable, an attending physician at MedStar Georgetown University Hospital, the advisor to the program. Dr. Noble was recently named the Collegiate EMS Advisor of the Year. Georgetown is one of four universities to be re-designated by the national Collegiate EMS Foundation this year as a HeartSafe campus. This means that a minimum of 5 percent of the university community is trained in CPR;

Emily Graul (NHS’20), a global health major at the School of Nursing & Health Studies, who researches how different medical definitions can introduce stigma for identities or treatment options. Formerly, as a Global Health Initiative Fellow, she examined qualitative interviews on community health worker programs in Bangladesh from a larger UNICEF-funded study on maternal and child health programs. She is also a member of GERMS (See above);

Sally Huang (G’19), a student in the Biomedical Graduate Education Program, who studies biological agents and bioterrorism, and effective ways to detect, monitor and prevent future disasters from occurring. She is pursuing a Master’s in Biohazards Threat Agents and Emerging Infectious Diseases at Georgetown University Medical Center. Huang plans to use her degree to become an active member of the biodefense and national security field, changing the world that is becoming increasingly vulnerable to advanced sciences and technology;

Bezi Yohannes (G’20), a graduate student in the English department, who hopes that one day a wide selection of fantasy and science fiction by people of color about people of color will become as mainstream as the Black Panther movie. A first-generation American, whose parents came to the United States from Ethiopia before she was born, encouraged her to write. She published a 270-page fantasy novel, Secrets of Meynch, when she was only 14. At the heart of her vision, Yohannes wants literature written by diverse authors to become prevalent in the American mainstream;
Consortium member students are pursuing important research:

- Catherine DeMarino, who is pursuing PhDs in biosciences at George Mason University, received a perfect score of 10 on a grant proposal submitted to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), which landed her a $75,000 grant to continue her research;
- Junior Brian Aberle, an engineering student at Catholic University, recently received a United States Patent for his method of amplifying the power of cell phone camera lenses;
- Trinity Washington University senior biology major Adriana Pino Delgado is a published author of an article in a peer-reviewed journal, Molecular Cell. She was part of a research team that co-authored the article, “Genomic Copy-Number Loss Is Rescued by Self-Limiting Production of DNA Circles,” which was posted online in October. (For more on Adriana, see On the Road.);
- Georgetown University Ph.D candidate Rahma Maccarone (G’23), a Patrick Healy Graduate Fellow pursuing her Ph.D. in Spanish Literature and Cultural Studies, grew up in Somalia hearing rich oral narratives. With her undergraduate degree from George Mason University, she has come to Georgetown to examine questions of race, identify, and agency in the history and literature surrounding the narratives of enslaved Muslims in North America, South America and the Caribbean;
- Ben Mindes (G’19), a graduate student in Georgetown University’s McCourt School of Public Policy, became the first person to lead a sample-based election observation in U.S. History when he used the method to review the November 2018 General Election in the District of Columbia. Mindes founded the Observe DC initiative to provide representative data about the quality of election administration in Washington, DC. Observers piloted a sample-based election observation (SBO) effort during the election requiring observers to deploy to randomly sampled polling places and observe whether election officials followed proper procedures including access for the disabled. In general, Mindes gave the District’s a passing grade for a smooth operation, but suggested improvements for future elections;
- Colton Wade (SFS’18, G’19), a student in Georgetown’s Master of Science in Foreign Service program, was a finalist for the prestigious Rhodes Scholarship. He researches how the world’s emerging democracies—India, Brazil, and South Africa, can effectively partner with traditional players such as the United States, the European Union and the United Kingdom to more actively support democracy amid a global rise in authoritarianism. Wade’s capstone project at Georgetown, funded through the Institute for the Study of Diplomacy analyzed economic statecraft—the directing of market forces toward diplomatic ends—to identify cases in which such tools have successfully reversed democratic backsliding abroad. Wade aspires to have a varied career shaping the policy discourse on global democracy or as a writer for Foreign Affairs magazine.

The Cardinal O’Connor Conference on Life at Georgetown University, the largest student-run, pro-life Conference in the nation, marked its 20th anniversary in January, continuing a tradition for Catholic youth that has grown exponentially over the years. Georgetown students held the first Conference in 2000 and afterward named it for the late John Cardinal O’Connor, the Archbishop of New York who received a PhD in Government from Georgetown in 1970. Originally created for college and high school students, the conference now attracts a large number of students, academics, clergy, and others from around the country to reflect on the pro-life positions O’Connor defended.
Several **Consortium** member institutions hosted Research Days as part of the spring semester calendar:

- **George Washington University** Research Days were held on April 9 and 10 giving undergraduate, graduate and postdoctoral students at **GW** an opportunity to showcase their work and compete for prize money. This annual event is dedicated to highlighting the breadth of research and discovery on issues of major disciplinary, cross-disciplinary and global significance being done at **GW** through poster sessions, presentations and guest speakers;

- **Catholic University** Research Days were held on April 9 and celebrated intellectual curiosity across disciplines allowing graduate and undergraduate students, faculty, and staff to showcase their research in poster and oral presentations as well as interactive demonstrations. Among the presenters were **School of Engineering** students who revealed their ‘Smart Socks’ prototype which will help monitor the health of an adult remotely developed through their participation in the Grand Challenges Scholars Program; and

- **Howard University** hosted its 6th Annual Research Week from April 8 to 12 as part of an institutional effort to promote and celebrate the university’s research-intensive history and mission. **Howard** students and faculty researchers, along with visiting science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) professionals participated in discussions with guest speakers, workshops, and an exhibition-style symposium.

As all of Washington was riveted by the testimony of Dr. Christine Blasey Ford in September 2018, reporters Mikaela Lefrak and Meg Anderson with **WAMU-FM, American University**’s **NPR** affiliate, sat in on several **Trinity Washington University** classes as students watched the hearings. As Dr. Ford continued her testimony, a group of **Trinity** students discussed their immediate reactions and their reflections on the national conversation around sexual assault and the #MeToo movement. The segment aired locally on **WAMU-FM** and aired nationally on the **NPR** program, “Here and Now.” The radio feature was also posted online with photos of the **Trinity** students under the headline, “Washington Reacts to Kavanaugh Hearings: From A Catholic Women’s College To A Northern Virginia Coffee Shop”

**SPRING BREAK**

**Trinity Washington University** students traveled to Alabama for an Alternative Spring Break Experience combining community service and an immersion in civil rights history. They crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma; paid their respects to the victims of the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing in Birmingham; met community members who hosted Martin Luther King, Jr., in their homes during his civil rights advocacy in Selma; and painted and repaired homes of senior citizens in Selma.

**SUMMER SCHOOL**

For a second consecutive year, **Howard University** joined Verizon Innovative Learning, the educational initiative of the Verizon Foundation, to offer minority male middle school students across Washington, DC summer intensive courses in science, technology, engineering and math
The camp took place at the **Howard University Middle School of Mathematics & Science** and was open to all local minority males in grades six through eight. Students participated in entrepreneurship training, hands-on learning experiences in next-gen technologies like robotics, augmented reality, and 3D printing, as well as access to college-aged mentors. Following the summer courses, students were invited to monthly after-school activities through **Howard** including local and virtual field trips and ongoing mentorship.

**Campus Life**

The annual **Celebrate GW Bonfire** on February 6 kicked off a series of celebrations commemorating the **George Washington University**’s founding and its namesake, President George Washington’s 287th birthday. Other events in February included Charter Day and a wreath-laying ceremony.

Each November, **Georgetown University** joins other Jesuit colleges and universities in celebrating Jesuit Heritage Month. The Society of Jesus—or the Jesuits for short—is the religious order of men in the Catholic Church who founded **Georgetown** as well as many other high schools, colleges and universities around the world with a mission of providing education, ministry and outreach to the marginalized.

**George Mason University** made national headlines when it unveiled a fleet of 25 delivery robots that roam the university’s Fairfax Campus delivering treats from various food outlets around campus. The endeavor is a joint effort between Starship Technologies and Sodexo food service, which serves the campus. In the months since the robots arrived, an extra 1,500 breakfast orders were delivered, considerably bolstering students’ intake of breakfast. Prior to the service, students skipped breakfast by up to 88 percent of the time, primarily due to lack of time.

**Georgetown University**’s faculty and staff dipped into their own pockets 50 years ago to support the university’s first six **Georgetown Community Scholars**, and that legacy continues today in new ways, including the First-Generation Faculty and Staff Initiative. As the **Community Scholars Program** celebrates a half-century of providing academic support to multicultural cohorts of first-generation students, the **First-Generation Faculty & Staff Initiative** has begun in the **Office of the Provost**. The **Initiative** is designed to identify first-generation faculty and staff as well as allies who support first-generation students; build on the university’s existing efforts to cultivate a vibrant first-generation support network for undergraduates; and bridge the gap and expose students to a support system among faculty and staff to equip students with social capital and insight into diverse academic fields.

To enforce the importance of diversity in medicine, the **Georgetown University School of Medicine** Chapter of the Student National Medical Association planned “Melanin in Medicine: Dissecting Diverse Perspectives” to help meet its mission of creating culturally competent and socially conscious medical professionals who work on behalf of underserved populations. Held through a partnership with the MLK Initiative: Let Freedom Ring! And the President’s Office of Diversity and Inclusion, the event also offered an opportunity to recognize the contributions and legacy of African Americans in medicine. Attendees included pre-medical undergraduate and
medical students from both Georgetown and Howard Universities and alumni and applicants to Georgetown’s undergraduate and post-baccalaureate pipeline programs which are striving to increase the number of underrepresented students in medicine.

**Veterans Affairs**

Through collaboration between the Washington DC Veterans Affairs Medical Center and The Catholic University of America’s School of Nursing, a “Hands Only CPR” Fair was held at the VA Medical Center just before Valentine’s Day to provide veterans and their families life-saving training. According to the American Heart Association, for every 1 minute delay in starting CPR, a victim’s chances of surviving decreases by 10%.

Bronze Star medal recipient and Georgetown Law student Ty Pinkins (L’20) has founded a nonprofit providing a weeklong leadership skills immersion experience in the nation’s capital for underserved teens from his native Mississippi Delta region. Pinkins, 44, who grew up in rural Rolling Fork, Mississippi, worked in cotton fields as a teenager, using the lessons of resiliency learned there to follow a career in the military. During his 21-year military career, Pinkins secured a degree from the University of Maryland University College, before enrolling in Georgetown Law. In the first two years of the program, called the Pyramid Project, it has hosted more than 100 students, some of whom have returned to Washington as college students to attend Howard and Georgetown Universities. Pinkins notes that Georgetown Law is very friendly to veterans.

George Mason University answered a call for help from Smithsonian Magazine and designed a poll to measure opinions on hot-topic issues in the military community. Mason also helped analyze the results. The team was led by Denton Daigle, a political science professor in the Schar School of Policy and Government where he teaches undergraduate and graduate programs in political research methodology and an undergraduate course in political psychology.

Georgetown University student Sean Cooke (SFS’21), who is part of the U.S. Navy Seaman to Admiral 21 Program, is one of two Georgetown student veterans awarded the competitive 2018 Tillman Scholarship for strength in character and academic excellence. Cooke, who served in the U.S. Navy for a decade as a member of the Naval Special Warfare community, spent a year-and-a-half in Afghanistan conducting contingency operations and two years working with interagency partners in Central America. He found his way to Georgetown due to his interest in international affairs. He is pursuing a degree in Georgetown’s School of Foreign Service in International Affairs, minoring in Persian.

**Campus Competitions**

In April, the Howard University School of Business announced the 2019 #BISONHACKS Hackathon Winners. The Department of Information Systems and Supply Chain Management at the School of Business hosted the competition with corporate judges from Boeing, JP Morgan Chase & Co., Capitol One, Wayfair Inc., and more. Four student teams collectively won more than $10,000 in prizes and gifts for developing original computer software
or an original app that will help improve the livelihood of the DMV community. The winners were as follows:

- First place (a $5,000 prize) was won by Luenar Sleep Couch, an app that syncs with a users’ FitBit or Apple Watches to monitor sleep patterns to combat sleep deprivation;
- PreSave (a $3,000 prize) came in second for its financial responsibility app that uses machine learning to help users predict poor purchases leading to overspending; and
- CaloriKat (a $2,000 prize) came in third (and also won the $1,000 Best Innovation Prize) for its app that scans food items and recommends better choices for its user.

On January 24, George Washington Law hosted the Van Vleck Constitutional Law Moot Court Competition where two teams of two submitted briefs and argued for two constitutional law issues that a hypothetical Supreme Court agreed to resolve. The all-female finalist teams argued before a Bench including federal Judges John Bush and Joan Larsen of the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals and Gregory Katsas of the DC Circuit. In a split decision, the judges voted 2-1 in favor of the petitioner for the best overall team, which received the Jacob Burns Award during a ceremony the day before Commencement.

An app created by Georgetown University students to connect women enrolled in university computer science programs took First Prize in the Gender Equity Track at this year’s 2019 Hoya Hacks Competition. Hoya Hacks is an annual 36-hour “hackathon” during which students from Georgetown and other universities compete to use technology to advance solutions to national and global challenges. Students participating in the Gender Track of the hackathon were challenged to think about how HeForShe supporters can work with women to create meaningful change in their communities. The winning team developed a social matching app that pairs women enrolled in computer science departments with others also similarly enrolled who have similar personal and professional interests. It is the creators’ goal to help women connect across age groups and within large lecture halls. (For more on HeForShe, see Spotlight: Presidents)

American University Washington College of Law (AUWCL) took first place at the Clara Barton International Humanitarian Law Competition on March 10, a simulation based, experiential legal competition designed to expose students to real-world challenges. The AUWCL Moot Court Team consisted of 3L Lindsey Miller and 2L’s Kate Tomaszewski and Rachel Bruce. The team participated in the competition to test their skills on a problem designed to expose students to the practice of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and to real world challenges facing IHL practitioners during armed conflict. The AUWCL Team beat out teams from Santa Clara University, the University of Virginia, Harvard University, George Washington University, Georgetown University, Loyola University, South Texas College, the U.S. Air Force Academy, the U.S. Naval Academy, UCLA, and the University of Cincinnati.

On February 12, George Washington University’s Transportation Program won the first GigabitDCx Challenge for its video traffic detection and information sharing app, “Road Vision.” The team was awarded $25,000 in start-up and research funds to further develop Road Vision. GigabitDCx is a Washington, DC public innovation competition that challenged the tech community to test inventive ideas to confront two of the toughest problems cities face today—traffic and climate change. Samer Hamdar, Professor of Civil Engineering, heads GW’s
Transportation Program, and Claire Silverstein, Visiting Assistant Professor of Civil Engineering, is the lead on the Road Vision Team.

Students from Georgetown University’s McDonough School of Business had success in the 2019 Venture Capital Investment Competition (VCIC) at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Two Georgetown teams won their respective Mid-Atlantic regional rounds. In the VCIC competition, students took on the role of venture capitalists and choose from a field of two or three real startups in which to invest their hypothetical dollars. Professional venture capitalists judge teams based on their investment decision and their ability to defend them. Members of the team had backgrounds in venture capital, finance, electrical engineering, and growth strategy.

Teams of Catholic University students competed in various events including:
- A “hackathon” on March 19 in which participants developed action plans to address particular social issues, such as homelessness or income inequality; and
- the National Collegiate Sales Competition in Atlanta, Georgia where teams of students competed.

On February 19, ten George Washington University teams pitched startup ideas at a Pitch Night contest that marked the launch of GW’s partnership with eMerge Americas, the premier technology event that linking Latin America to the rest of the world. GW President Thomas LeBlanc made opening remarks at the event, at which three GW teams were selected to compete in the sixth annual eMerge Americas Startup Showcase in Miami in April. The panel of judges included eMerge Americas President Melissa Medina and three members of the GW Board of Trustees—Chair Nelson A. Carbonell Jr., (BS ’85); Amr A. ElSawy, (MSEE ’81); and Todd Klein.

Georgetown University student and alumni entrepreneurs won $100,000 prizes at the second annual Bark Tank pitch competition at the McDonough School of Business in November 2018. The formal name of the competition—the Leonsis Family Entrepreneurship Prize—is supported by longtime entrepreneur and Georgetown alumnus Ted Leonsis; his wife, Lynn; his son Zach; and his daughter (and Georgetown alum Elle (C’14)). Those offering winning pitches included:
- Shavini Fernando (G’18) who won $30,000 for his O2Wear device that alerts people whether vital signs go out of normal range. He also won the People’s Choice Award, an additional $5,000 (see more about Fernando above);
- Ramya Possett (MBA’18) and Rachel Lee who won $20,000 for Bluefoot, a marriage of Wall Street data with technology, product, and patent data to help companies make better strategic decisions;
- Zach Oschin (SFS’20) who won $15,000 for Elenas, a digital direct sales platform designed to assist Latin American women earn income selling beauty products; and
- Margarita Womak (EMBA’19) who won $10,000 for M’Panadas, which fuses street foods, nutritional science, and modern American cuisine to make portable foods; and
Catholic University, in its 18th year supporting Special Olympics, hosted its sixth annual Polar Plunge on February 15. Above ground swimming pools filled with icy water were set up on campus and students were invited to jump in. Nicole Preston, Special Olympics DC president and CEO, said this year’s CUA Plunge drew 280 pledges and raised $33,464.

Students in the American University College of Arts and Sciences Leadership and Ethical Development Program (CAS LEAD) spent the first weekend of February giving back to the DC community by volunteering with Kids Enjoy Exercise Now. The local nonprofit pairs volunteer coaches with young people with disabilities. CAS LEAD members spent time with both children and teenagers, playing sports and just hanging out.

Trinity Washington University hosted a press conference in February announcing the launch of the Walker’s Legacy Foundation’s “Moms Who Enterprise Program in Washington, DC” with Trinity President Pat McGuire as one of the featured speakers. Begun in partnership with Ward 5 DC Councilmember Kenyan McDuffie, the six-week program is designed to advance entrepreneurial opportunity and financial resilience for single or expecting mothers in DC specifically those who identify as low-income or A.L.I.C.E (asset limited income constrained yet employed) and are looking to take their businesses to the next level. All of the classes were held on Trinity’s campus this past spring, culminating with a graduation ceremony at Trinity on May 11 in advance of Mother’s Day.

George Mason University hosted a community dialogue with Amazon on its Arlington Campus, providing a window into the tech giant’s plans for its new headquarters in Northern Virginia. The 90-minute meeting gave more than 100 community stakeholders an opportunity to pose questions about Amazon’s plans and impact on the region. Amazon is expected to bring more than 25,000 high-paying jobs to the Metropolitan Washington, DC, area, and Mason is poised to play a prominent role in establishing that talent pipeline with an expansion of its Arlington Campus and the creation of a new School of Computing.

In partnership with Community Tax Aid, Inc., a Washington, DC, Metro Area program that serves low-income taxpayers, George Washington University School of Business (GWSB) and GW Law student volunteers helped prepare income tax returns for members of the Foggy Bottom community whose earnings are $55,000 a year or less. The student volunteers were trained to prepare high quality returns and helped those visiting the tax clinic take advantage of refunds they may not have known were available to them. The tax prep clinic was offered on a first come, first served basis until April 14.

In February, the Alfred Street Baptist Church in Alexandria, VA announced plans to assist Howard University students selected by the university to clear their debts. The university chose full-time students with a grade-point average of 2.0 or higher who demonstrated significant financial need with balances owed from $100 to $3,000. During a 30-day fast that involved limiting consumption of food, social media and money, church members were asked to abstain from unnecessary purchases and, at the end of the month, consider donating the money they had
saved to a selected charitable cause—in this case, Howard University students. The Church’s gift to Howard, comprised of donations from 4,000 parishioners, topped $100,000.

THE PLACE TO BE

Consortium member institutions celebrated a series of holidays and honorary observations including:

- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Events
  - The George Washington University community honored the life and legacy of Dr. King through a series of programs, presentations, service events, lectures and seminars led by GW faculty, staff and students. GW President Thomas LeBlanc made remarks at the MLK Day of Service and Leadership kick-off event on January 21 before volunteers participated in service on and off campus;
  - Catholic University of America celebrated Martin Luther King Jr. Day through community service:
    - Nearly 900 students, faculty, and staff from CUA worked with several volunteer groups as part of the university’s annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service; and
  - The Athletics Department was honored for its annual MLK Day of Service as the winner of the National Association of Division III Administrators (NADIIIAA) Community Service Award for On-Going Project category during the 2017-18 academic year. Each January on MLK Day, 500-plus CUA student-athletes and coaches head out into the Greater Washington, DC area to provide the community with a wide-ranging day of service. The student-athletes spend the day engaging in a variety of service projects working in local schools, cleaning neighborhoods, painting buildings and beautifying city areas among other volunteer efforts; and
  - Georgetown University honored the legacy of Dr. King with a semester of events following the annual Let Freedom Ring! Concert staged at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts at which the John Thompson, Jr. Legacy of a Dream Award was presented.
    - The 2019 Concert featured award winning actors and singers Audra McDonald and Brian Stokes Mitchell around the theme “Hoyas Building a Loving Community;” and
    - Hawah Kasat, co-founder and Executive Director of One Common Unity (OCU), was honored with the Legacy of a Dream Award. The Award is presenting to an inspirational emerging local leader. Since 2000, One Common Unity has collaborated with thousands of educators, health practitioners, youth and families in Washington, DC to break cycles of violence and build compassionate communities through music, art and peace education;
  - Lunar New Year Celebrations
    - Several George Washington University East Asian organizations hosted a celebration of the Lunar New Year of the Pig featuring student performances at the Charles E. Smith Center on January 31.
- **Black History Month Celebrations**
  - **At Georgetown University:**
    - On February 11, Associate Dean Kristin Henning, the Agnes N. Williams Professor who directs the Juvenile Justice Clinic, moderated a panel entitled “Can I Live? Black Women’s Lives in America,” held at Georgetown Law. Tristin Brown (L’19), President of Georgetown’s Law Black Law Student Association introduced the panel comprised of Georgetown Law experts. The lecture was the first in a series held by GIU BLSA to celebrate Black History Month;
    - On February 15, a conference organized by Department of Performing Arts Chair Soyica Colbert focused on black cultural expression and activism, featuring Barbara Ransby, a top expert in the field, as keynote speaker; and
    - On February 22, Panelists at Georgetown Law discussed how many African American women have lost their lives due to violence and been subjected to other horrific injustices. The panelists emphasized that the names of these women would not be forgotten;
  - **At George Washington University** the university staged several events as part of Black Heritage Celebrations. Among the events:
    - On January 28, Michael Eric Dyson, author and sociology professor at Georgetown University, used his keynote address to tackle this year’s theme: “I’m Rooting for Everybody Black.” The event kicked off the Black Heritage Celebration at GW, sponsored by the Multicultural Student Services Center; and
    - A series of additional programming took place throughout February that promoted the values and traditions of African-American, Caribbean, African and Afro-Latino cultures; and
    - On February 28, veteran White House correspondent and former School of Media and Public Affairs (SMPA) Terker Distinguished Fellow April Ryan returned to GW to discuss her book, Under Fire, which provides an inside look at reporting from the front lines of the Trump White House. Associate Professor of Journalism Cheryl W. Thompson moderated the discussion cosponsored by SMPA and the GW Association of Black Journalists;
  - **At American University, AU** held the FD200 Awards Gala on February 14 at the Library of Congress. It was the culminating event of a project launched by AU’s Antiracist Research and Policy Center and the Frederick Douglass Family Initiative to honor 200 people whose work reflects the legacy of Douglass;

- **Women’s History Month and International Women’s Day**
  - **At Trinity Washington University**, the nation’s capital sole women’s college, celebrated Women’s History Month throughout March including the following events:
    - **Trinity President Patricia McGuire** was profiled in The DC Line in a feature article entitled, “For Trinity Washington University’s Pat McGuire, Stepping Up and Taking Risks Carried Her to the President’s Office.” President McGuire reflected on her perspectives of leadership,
being a change agent, and the transformation and growth of Trinity during her nearly 30 years as president; and

- More than 20 Trinity STEM faculty and student scholars were guests of Trinity alumna and Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi for a special Women’s History Month event in Statuary Hall of the U.S. Capitol. The event honored the “Hidden Figures” of NASA, the Women Mathematicians of U.S. Space Program: Christine Darden, Mary Jackson, Katherine Johnson and Dorothy Vaughan. (For More on Speaker Pelosi and Trinity see Lead Stories; Spotlight: Presidents; and Big Men (and Women) on Campus).

- At George Washington University, the 20th Annual GW Women’s Leadership Conference took place on March 29. The conference, entitled “#MeToo: Catalyst for Change,” explored the ongoing impact this movement has generated in workplace policy decisions, shifting cultural and economic dynamics, and the creation of a new political map. George Washington University Trustee Grace Speights was the luncheon speaker with EMILY’s List President Stephanie Schriock as the keynote speaker and GW Trustee Cynthia Steele Vance as a panel moderator;

- At Georgetown University, current and former diplomats, including 12 Georgetown alumnae, shared perspectives on women’s roles in shaping communities around the globe ahead of International Women’s Day. Melanne Verveer, Executive Director of the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security (GIWPS) at the School of Foreign Service, moderated the panel which included former Georgetown alumni Ambassador Michele Thoren Bond (G’77) and Stephanie Syptak-Ramnath (SFS’92), Chargé D’Affaires to the U.S. Embassy in Singapore (For more news about GIWPS, see New Initiatives); and

- At American University, the School of Public Affairs’ Women and Politics Institute (WPI) hosted six female ambassadors to the U.S. for a panel discussion about the progress and challenges related to female political representation around the world in honor of International Women’s Day. Panelists hailed from Albania, Kosovo, Finland, El Salvador, and New Zealand in a conversation moderated by WPI Executive Director Betty Fischer Martin. The panel’s conclusion? That women, while making progress, still face different standards and criticism in the media and face a tilted playing field (For more about Professor Fischer Martin’s activities, see Campus Movers and Shakers and Big Men (and Women) on Campus. For more about WPI events, see Place to Be).

A September 2018 conference sponsored by Georgetown Law and the Institute for New Economic Thinking looked at lessons learned from the 2008 financial crisis on the 10th anniversary of the collapse. According to Professor Emma Coleman Jordan, she organized the conference to explore whether we are headed for another financial crisis despite the changes to bank regulation. Participants included Sheila Bair, former Chair of the FDIC, who delivered a keynote address on the “Forgotten Lessons of the Financial Crisis;” John Bogle, founder of the Vanguard Group and Georgetown Law professors Adam Levitin, Anthony Cook, Anupam Chander, James Feinerman, Anne Fleming, and Anna Gelpern. Professor George Akerlof, winner of the Bobel Prize in Economics and the author of Phishing for Phools, delivered closing remarks.
The 2019 NBC4-Telemundo 44 Health & Fitness Expo was held at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in the District of Columbia on January 12 and 13. George Washington University was the major medical partner this year, and School of Medicine and Health Sciences Communications coordinated several faculty interviews with local WRC-NBC4 during the Expo.

At an event titled “What is the Future of Data Science in the DC Region?,” Kirk Borne, Principal Data Scientist and Executive Adviser at Booz Allen Hamilton, spoke with George Washington University School of Business Dean Anuj Mehrotra about the role of academia in supporting the growth of data science and the impact of Amazon’s decision to expand in the Washington, DC, region. The event on January 15 was cosponsored by the Office of Industry and Corporate Research, based in the Office of the Vice President for Research, and the GW Data Science Institute.

George Washington University’s Young America’s Foundation (YAF) Chapter, in partnership with National YAF, hosted political and media commentator Ben Shapiro at a sold-out event in Betts Theatre on January 17. Mr. Shapiro’s remarks at GW were a part of his spring speaking tour at college campuses across the United States.

George Washington University’s Program on Extremism, the Norwegian Defense Research Establishment and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs cohosted a panel discussion, “Jihadism after the Caliphate,” at GW Law’s Jacob Burns Moot Courtroom on January 25. Following introductory remarks by Kåre R. Aas, the Norwegian Ambassador to the United States, Program on Extremism Senior Research Fellow Haroro J. Ingram moderated a panel discussion on the future of the transnational jihadi movement.

Georgetown University in Qatar (GU-Q) and the Vatican’s Pontifical Academy for Life co-organized the Muslim and Christian Perspectives in Palliative Care and End of Life Conference, where Sultana Afdhal, CEO of World Innovation Summit for Health (WISH), and academy president Archbishop Vincenzo Paglia signed a Joint Declaration on End of Life and Palliative Care. “Georgetown has a long tradition of commitment to spiritual inquiry, debate and dialogue. I am very pleased that GU-Q had an opportunity to play a defining role in the organization of this important Conference, and in facilitating the signing of the Joint Statement on Palliative Care that will have implications not only for Qatar and the region, but everywhere human compassion in healthcare and end of life is needed,” said GU-Q Dean Ahmed S. Dallal about the Conference.

George Washington University alumna Elana Meyers Taylor, (BS ’06 and MTA ’11), was back at GW on February 5 representing the Women’s Sports Foundation (WSF) as its new President for the organization’s “Lead Her Forward” campaign in celebration of National Girls and Women in Sports Day. With help from GW student-athletes and a host of decorated sports ambassadors, the Colonials softball star-turned-Olympic bobsled medalist headlined a clinic for about 100 local girls with events at GW’s Lerner Health and Wellness Center and Charles E. Smith Center.

On February 19, Martha Joynt Kumar, Director of the White House Transition Project, discussed her 2015 book, Before the Oath: How George W. Bush and Barack Obama Managed a Transfer of Power, with Todd Belt, Director of George Washington University’s Political Management
Program. The discussion contrasted the 2008 transition to the most recent White House change in power and examined a potential transition following the upcoming 2020 presidential election.

Trinity Washington University hosted two author book signing events in February:
- *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Politics*, featuring remarks by all four authors: Donna Brazile, Yolanda Caraway, Leah Daughtry and Minyon Moore with Veronica Chambers moderating; and
- *The Privileged Poor: How Elite Colleges Are Failing Disadvantaged Students*, with author Dr. Anthony Abraham Jack, a professor of education at Harvard, and a graduate of Amherst College and Harvard.

A February 22 conference hosted by American University’s School of Public Affairs and Washington College of Law convened leading experts from public policy, medicine, and law enforcement to discuss new ways to address the opioid crisis. Whether the situation is defined as a public health crisis or law enforcement problem is at the heart of the debate. At the conference, panelists discussed the range of approaches from prevention to treatment to punishment in the criminal justice system. Experts underscored the need for practitioners to work together to combat the problem, rather than in silos.

On February 25 in George Washington University’s Marvin Center, GW Athletics and presenting sponsor Capgemini Government Solutions LLC, brought together more than 100 current student-athletes with professional leaders across the world of business, entertainment, politics and arts for a networking and mentorship panel. The current student-athletes were enlightened by a distinguished group of successful career panelists, many of whom who once wore the Buff and Blue. Alumni and partners from the government and business sectors gave invaluable insight, advice and discussed career opportunities with the student-athletes. The annual event was created for sophomore student-athletes as they begin to think about their career beyond GW, but it was also open to all student-athletes.

Cameron Kasky, a survivor of the Parkland, FL shooting, spoke with students on George Mason University’s Fairfax Campus on February 25 as part of a Freedom and Learning Forum. The talk also featured a question-and-answer session with students and facilitated small-group discussions. Mason’s Freedom and Learning Forums are great opportunities for students to learn more about the community and about social issues in the media.

A panel discussion on “The Humanity of Espionage,” including four former CIA spy handlers, was held on February 28 at The Catholic University of America. Event moderator Nicholas Dujmovic, Assistant Professor and Director of the university’s Intelligence Studies Program, previously worked at the Central Intelligence Agency for 26 years. “At its core, espionage always involves a relationship,” Dujmovic said who was joined during the evening by John Bennett, a former Director of the National Clandestine Service at the CIA; Juan Cruz, a former career CIA operations and case officer; Gil Kindelan, a retired case officer with 34 years of government service in the U.S. Army and the CIA; and Scotty Skotzko, who served 40 years as a CIA operations officer with eight oversea postings. The discussion was the fourth in a series of events cosponsored by the Intelligence Studies Program and the university’s Institute for Human Ecology. Dujmovic said the night’s purpose was to explain how a life in intelligence really works and how it can affect those in the field.
In March, More than 600 people gathered for the DC Blockchain Summit at Georgetown University. The event consisted of talks led by prominent CEO’s and founders of companies specializing in blockchain technology and its uses including cryptocurrency, smart legal agreements, voting, and how the technology will affect government operations, digital commerce and cybersecurity. The Chamber of Digital Commerce hosted the conference.

Trinity Washington University convened two symposia reflective of its mission:

- On April 3, Trinity held a full day Symposium on #MeToo and Sexual Violence discussing how sexual violence is a major systemic problem throughout our society, infecting major institutions and leaving individual lives devastated. As THE leading institution for women in the Nation’s Capital, with a deep commitment to social justice, Trinity plays a key role as a leader in convening scholars, students, advocates, survivors and service providers to learn together about all dimensions of this grievous problem and to be a voice for solutions within all of the communities and organizations touched by members of our campus community; and

- On April 25, Trinity’s School of Education convened an all-day Colloquium entitled “Seeking Social Justice and Advocacy for Children and Their Caregivers: Preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), Healing Trauma, and Building Resilience.” This program, supported by a grant from Kaiser Permanente, was open to students and faculty of all Consortium colleges and universities and faculty were invited to bring their classes.

Howard University kicked off the National Math Festival on May 3 with a lecture by Talitha Washington, PhD, Associate Professor of Mathematics, on the topic of J. Ernest Wilkins, Jr., a mathematician of the Civil Rights era. Professor Wilkins worked on the Manhattan Project, which developed the Atomic Bomb that ended World War II. Held at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, the Festival was open to the public and designed to give guests the opportunity to explore playful lectures on the math behind how the world works along with creative short films, performances, team sports challenges and more.

**ARTS AND CULTURE**

The American University Symphony Orchestra, Chorus and Chamber Singers performed for approximately 800 audience members in the North American premier of Arnold Saltzman’s *A Choral Symphony: Halevi* on February 24. The combined forces of the AU artists joined the Strathmore Children’s Chorus and guest soloists—mezzo soprano Janice Meyerson and baritone Rob McGinness—to perform the hour-long six-movement choral symphony under the soaring stained glass windows of the National Presbyterian Church. Rabbi Arnold Saltzman, the composer, was in the Hall during the performance.

George Washington University’s first-ever Arts Walk on March 21 celebrated the inspiring creativity on campus with stops at the university’s diverse arts venues including:

- The GW Corcoran School of the Arts and Design where Robin Bell’s provocative light installations entitled OPEN focused on transparency, belonging and accessibility. The work was on display at until March 31;
The George Washington University Museum and The Textile Museum where Norman Rockwell’s iconic Four Freedoms paintings and post-WWII works focused on human rights were on display as part of an exhibit entitled the Enduring Ideals: Rockwell, Roosevelt & the Four Freedoms. The display went up on February 13 and was open to the public through April 29. This display was the first comprehensive traveling exhibition devoted to artist Norman Rockwell’s depictions of President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Four Freedoms—Freedom of Speech, Freedom of Worship, Freedom from Want and Freedom from Fear—and was a rare opportunity to see the masterpieces together outside their permanent home in Stockbridge, Massachusetts;

- Gallery 102; and
- Luther W. Brady Art Gallery.

Hands-on crafts, live music and dance performances were staged at each location and featured student groups from across the GW community. The walk ended at the Corcoran for an after-hours party.

American University’s Antiracist Research and Policy Center hosted the first-of-its-kind National Antiracist Book Festival organized around authors writing for racial equity and justice. The festival took place on AU’s campus on April 27. Along with nationally renowned writers, journalists, poets, and scholars, the festival also included workshops with leading literary agents and book editors for aspiring writers.

On April 6, the Catholic University Medieval Society hosted Medieval Day, an annual celebration of the arts and culture of the Middle Ages. This year, in addition to its regular re-enactors and musicians, an additional historical group and the Catholic University Sacred Music Consort were invited. The event is always a favorite among students and faculty (and their families) as well as school groups from the surrounding community.

A photography exhibit at American University’s School of Public Affairs (SPA) entitled, Juvenile in Justice, ran from February 6 through March 5, and included more than 90 images of youth incarcerated in the juvenile justice system, as well as audio clips about their experiences.

According to the SPA Justice Programs Office Director Kim Ball, the exhibit is intended to reframe how young people are perceived in the juvenile justice system.

George Washington University celebrated the 16th anniversary of the South Africa Project with performances of traditional African song and dance and contemporary poetry in Marvin Center’s Betts Theatre on February 1 and 2. GW’s partnership with the Bokamoso Youth Centre of Winterveldt, South Africa, continued with the presentation of Africans: Where Are We Going. The play explored modern South African society 25 years after the end of Apartheid in the country by underscoring its current issues with corruption and highlighting the Winterveldt community’s determination to create the South African Nelson Mandela envisioned. Attendees also enjoyed special guest appearances by GW a Capella singing groups the Troubadours and the Voice Gospel Choir.

The Catholic University of America staged several productions during the Spring Semester including:
From March 28 to March 31, CUA staged Handel’s *Julius Caesar in Egypt*. Loosely based on historical events of the Roman Civil War, Handel’s masterpiece has become one of his most performed operatic works. It tells the story of how Caesar and Cleopatra first met;  
From April 12 to 14, CUA’s Center Stage Theatre Company presented *The Addams Family*. The play revolves around a typical life-cycle event—meeting the boyfriend and his family—until it turns into a “fateful night” for one of America’s favorite fictional families; and  
From April 25-28, the CUA Department of Drama presented *Antigone*, a classical Greek tragedy about a star-crossed family written by Sophocles.

**SPORTS**

The George Washington University Department of Athletics had a busy spring:  
- The Department celebrated GW Homecoming Weekend, highlighted by the Women’s Basketball game vs. George Mason on January 19; the Men’s and Women’s Squash Matches vs. Williams College; and the Men’s Basketball game vs. Duquesne on January 20. There was also a free tailgate leading up to the men’s basketball game on the third floor of the Lerner Health and Wellness Center with free food, drinks, music and games for all fans and students.  
- The Men’s Basketball program:  
  - Named Jamion Christian as the new Head Coach of the Program and officially introduced him at a press conference in Charles E. Smith Center on March 25;  
  - Honored Men’s Basketball legend Pops Mensah-Bonsu at halftime during the January 9 game against University of Dayton, highlighting the career of one of the best players in program history; and  
  - Celebrated former basketball star Mike King who returned to campus nearly 20 years after his playing career ended to finish his degree in sociology. Already a coach, he plans to further help youth through counseling once he receives his diploma;  
- The GW Squash Team honored Coach Wendy Lawrence on January 22 with the 2019 Tournament of Champions Women’s Squash Leadership Award at a luncheon benefitting the Women’s Sports Foundation in conjunction with the prestigious international tournament in New York City. Coach Lawrence distinguished herself in the squash community, first as a player and then as a coach on the club, high school and college levels. Her latest chapter brought her to Foggy Bottom in 2007, where she’s served as the architect of GW’s sustained build of both its men’s and women’s programs. Lawrence’s caring personality and even-keeled demeanor, coupled with a vast knowledge of the game, have long set up her players for success;  
- Following a historic run to the NCAA quarterfinals, GW men’s water polo team placed five student-athletes on the 2018 Association of Collegiate Water Polo Coaches (ACWPC) All-Academic Team. The Colonials were also lauded as a group for their success in the classroom thanks to their combined cumulative GPA of 3.02. They have continued their strong academic commitment as they have pushed forward in the pool with back-to-back Mid-Atlantic Water Polo Conference titles and NCAA Tournament appearances. Matt Taylor (3.85 GPA) and Josh Yardley (3.74) led the group by earning “Outstanding” status,
while Isher Gill (3.35), Zachary Pendolino (3.26) and Andrew Mavis (3.26) landed spots on the “Excellent” list;

- **GW Men’s Swimming and Diving Team** closed out its third straight Atlantic 10 title on February 23, clinching a comfortable victory with another medal-filled finals session at the SPIRE Institute. The Colonials punctuated an excellent four-day meet with their best evening yet. They won nine medals, swept the podium in both the 1,650-yard freestyle and 100-yard freestyle and finished with gold in the 400-yard freestyle relay. Moritz Fath, Alexander Auster, Max Forstenhaeusler and Patrick Lersch teamed up to win the meet-closing relay in a **GW**-record time of 2:56.63. Afterward, Fath was honored as the meet’s Most Outstanding Performer in recognition of winning six gold medals, including an individual win in the 1,650-yard freestyle in program-record time, with Peter Nachtwey, who earned gold (3M) and silver (1M) medals, named Most Outstanding Diver; and

- **GW’s Athletic Academic Dean’s List members** and the student athletes’ choice for **Professor of the Year** which during halftime of the **Women’s Basketball Game** against Duquesne on February 27 were honored. In order to be recognized on the **Dean’s List**, student-athletes had to achieve a 3.0 grade point average or higher in either the spring of 2017 or the fall 2018. In Spring 2017, 67% of **GW** student-athletes achieved a GPA of 3.0 or greater while the **Department’s** cumulative GPA was 3.13, marking at least the 15th consecutive semester that **GW Athletics** had a GPA higher than 3.10. 16 **GW Athletics** teams achieved a GPA above 3.0. Among the student-athletes honored, 18 achieved a perfect 4.0 GPA last semester. Visiting Associate Professor in the **Department of Organizational Sciences and Communication** Thomas Palaia was named as the student-athletes’ choice for Professor of the Year.

Several **Catholic University of America** coaches announced retirement plans:

- After 276 wins, six NCAA tournament appearances and five conference championships, **Head Men’s Basketball** Coach Steve Howes announced his resignation. He served as the Cardinals’ Head Coach since the 2004-05 season; and
- After spending 41 years as a Coach for **Cross Country and Track and Field**, Associate Head **Cross Country** and **Women’s Track and Field** Coach Joe Fisher announced his retirement as well.

In 2018, **Georgetown University**’s nearly 700 student-athletes, who play a total of 29 sports, had the best fall season in recent history, with each sport hitting significant milestones and setting new records. Inspired by the university’s Jesuit identify and educational mission, **Georgetown’s athletics program** seeks to develop talents, character and leadership qualities in all student-athletes. Teams who performed well included:

- The **Women’s Soccer Team** which advanced as one of the final four in the NCAA College Cup for the second time in three years;
- The **Men’s Soccer Team** which also made it to the NCAA tournament;
- The **Cross Country Team** which captured its fourth-consecutive Big East title; and
- The **Football Team** which finished the season with the most wins in program history since 2012.

**Georgetown** ranked No. 18 in the country in 2018-2019 Learfield Sports Directors’ Cup Division I fall standings and has consistently been among the top 25 for the past five years.
Beverly Westerman, Ed.D. ’99, an associate professor in the George Washington Milken Institute School of Public Health’s Department of Exercise and Nutrition Sciences, was appointed GW’s new Faculty Athletics Representative. In her new role, Dr. Westerman will champion academic success and promote the welfare of student-athletes. Dr. Westerman, who also serves as Department of Exercise and Nutrition Sciences Vice Chair for Undergraduate Studies, will serve as the Faculty Athletics Representative through June 2022. She has been affiliated with GW for more than three decades as a clinician, educator and student.

Georgetown University Head Men’s Basketball Coach (and alumnus) Patrick Ewing (C’85) debuted his new weekly show, Center Court with Patrick Ewing, in January with co-host Rick ”Doc” Walker on SiriusXM’s ESPNU Radio. The show was then streamed every Tuesday night throughout basketball season. In addition to Coach Ewing’s show, each Georgetown Men’s Basketball game was streamed on SiriusXM.

**Life After College**

Howard University alumnae, presidential candidate and U.S. Senator Kamala Harris (D-CA) made a pilgrimage to her alma mater on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in January to attend the Howard vs. Harvard Men’s Basketball game. Senator Harris attended the game just hours after she announced her decision to run for president. A subsequent profile of the senator in the Los Angeles Times identified her freshman-year campaign for a seat on the Liberal Arts Student Council at Howard as her toughest political race. “I reference often my days at Howard to help people understand they should not make assumptions about who black people are,” she said. (For more on Senator Harris, see Big Men (and Women) on Campus).

Less than seven years after George Mason University alumna Bethany Sachtleben took her first track workout as part of GMU’s Track Team, she is a professional runner. Her name fills the GMU record books and in February she participated in the 2020 Olympic Marathon Trials. She also takes the time to serve as a volunteer Assistant Coach to the GMU Patriots in addition to working full time as a financial analyst for a tech company in Tysons Corner. “I can’t imagine a life where I wake up, ‘Ah, I don’t want to run today,’” said Sachtleben. “I love it. It’s not even an option. I’m just like, I’m going to get ready to run. It’s just what I do. And I enjoy it.”

Alison Fitzgerald Kodjak, a 1991 Georgetown University graduate and NPR health correspondent, has been elected National Press Club president. An award winning journalist, Kodjak says she views her role as speaking up for the profession at a time when journalists are facing major economic challenges and a coordinated attack on their credibility. Of her new gig, she said she looks forward to “working together to advocate for our profession, and provide support to our colleagues in Washington, around the country and around the world.”

Recent Catholic University graduate Sandra D. Guillen won an architectural design competition held by Rinker Materials and the American Institute of Architectural Students. The challenge posed to students was to create a fully functional living space … inside a concrete pipe. It was based on a simple notion, “Overpopulation, homelessness, natural disasters. These are the
realities that architects are facing when designing now and for the future.” Guillen created and submitted an ingenious design that won first place and a $5,000 grant. She also saw her project constructed and displayed at the National Association of Home Builders International Builders Show in Las Vegas, Nevada.

**Georgetown University** alumna Amy Fong’s (B’92) decision to leave the world of financial services led her to meaningful and impactful work as the CEO of a nonprofit dedicated to the welfare of children in Hong Kong. Save the Children Hong Kong focuses on rescuing refugees traveling across the Mediterranean Sea from Africa to Europe to escape persecution and poverty. She said she was proud of her organization’s role in raising awareness even as Hong Kong was far from where children were experiencing stress. Save the Children Hong Kong was one of the world’s largest donors to the effort.

**George Washington Law** alumnus William P. Barr, (JD ’77,) was confirmed February 14 by the U.S. Senate as the Attorney General of the United States. Mr. Barr served as Attorney General from 1991 to 1993 during the presidency of George H.W. Bush’s Administration.

Colleagues, faculty, students, alumni and friends gathered to thank **Georgetown University** alumna Maria S. Gomez (NHS’77), the founder of Mary’s Center, which for 30 years has provided prenatal care to immigrant women in DC. At a November reception in her honor held in the historic Riggs Library on campus, DC Councilmember Brianne K. Nadeau (D-Ward 1); Patricia Cloonan, PhD, Dean of the School of Nursing and Health Studies; Christopher Murphy, JD, Georgetown’s Vice President of Government Relations and Community Engagement; and Stuart Butler, PhD, Chair of the Center’s Board of Directors, made remarks in support of Ms. Gomez’s work.

**Catholic University** alumnus Matthew Skros was recently honored with the publication of his paper in Studies in Intelligence, the professional intelligence journal published by the CIA for the U.S. intelligence community. Skros was also awarded the Walter Pforzheimer Award for the best student paper submitted. Established in 2000, the award has only been given to seven other individuals. Skros, who graduated in 2018, was one of the first students to receive a Certificate in Intelligence Studies from Catholic University.

**Georgetown University** alumna Kristin Brethel-Haurwitz (G’16) is First Author on a paper with Georgetown psychology professor Abigail Marsh, which for the first time, shows that people who donate kidneys to strangers exhibit enhanced empathy on a neural level with strangers. Brethel-Hauwitz, who received her PhD at Georgetown, has been researching altruism for a long time. She praised Georgetown’s collaborative environment as welcoming of her research.

On Super Bowl Sunday 2019, football fans might have seen a heartwarming commercial from Microsoft, which highlighted adaptive XBOX controller technology for young gamers with disabilities. Since its premiere, the commercial has received high praise from marketing experts, due to its subject matter and emotional depth. One of the decision-makers behind the ad was Pat Six, who earned his Master of Science in Business Analysis from **Catholic University** in 2012.
## What’s Next?

### Campus Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 19</td>
<td>First Day of Classes at <a href="#">Howard University</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 20</td>
<td>First Day of Classes at <a href="#">Trinity Washington University</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 26</td>
<td>First Day of Classes at American, Catholic Gallaudet, George Mason, George Washington, and Marymount Universities and the University of the District of Columbia and the University of Maryland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 27</td>
<td>First Day of Classes at <a href="#">Montgomery College</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 28</td>
<td>First Day of Classes at <a href="#">Georgetown University</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 2</td>
<td>Labor Day Holiday at All <a href="#">Consortium</a> members. Campuses are closed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 12-14</td>
<td>October Holiday at <a href="#">Trinity Washington University</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 14</td>
<td>October Holiday at Catholic, George Mason, Georgetown, Marymount Universities and the University of the District of Columbia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 21-22</td>
<td>October Holiday at <a href="#">George Washington University</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>