Breaking News

Johns Hopkins University announced plans to buy the landmark Pennsylvania Avenue, NW building that houses the Newseum for $372.5 million. For Hopkins, the move is expected to raise its profile in Washington. Programs currently located in buildings lining Massachusetts Avenue, NW including its School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), and graduate programs in business, nursing and arts and sciences are expected to move to the new space after its renovation—possibly as soon as 2021. The money for the purchase comes from a gift to JHU from billionaire Michael Bloomberg and the proceeds from the sales of the Massachusetts Avenue properties.

The purchase by Johns Hopkins University (JHU) of the Pennsylvania Avenue building spurred the Washington Post to look into how many schools have a presence in the District of Columbia. Consortium research from 2017 has found 150 schools (including Consortium members). In an article on the topic, the Washington Post wrote about how plentiful higher education institutions are in the District as well as how long many of them have been here. The oldest university in DC is Georgetown University, founded in 1789. The youngest DC-based traditional four year institution is the University of the District of Columbia which was opened in 1976 and 1977 when three older schools were merged. The article also reported on enrollment data of the traditional four-year institutions which were pulled from IPEDS reports.

Lead Stories

*The Washington Metro region (Arlington, VA) was one of two sites selected for Amazon’s second headquarters (HQ2). The Potomac Landing site in Crystal City is expected to support 25,000 new jobs with an average wage of $150,000. The deal also includes transportation improvements valued at $223 million and $1 billion for a Virginia Tech graduate campus in Alexandria focused on innovation, which Virginia Governor Ralph Northam has credited with attracting Amazon to the state. The $1 billion will be state funded since Virginia leaders have said that financing higher education and tech is an economic development imperative for future growth in the state. “This is a watershed moment that is going to rebrand Greater Washington and Virginia as a hub of information technology,” said George Mason University President Angel Cabrera. “This puts us on the map in a really major way.” As part of plans to welcome Amazon to the Washington region, Trinity Washington University President Patricia McGuire participated in a December meeting with Deputy Mayor for Economic Development Brian*
Kenner about Amazon HQ2 and the potential impact and opportunities for area universities. **Consortium President and CEO John Cavanaugh** also participated.

White Supremacists rallied in Washington DC over the summer raising fears of a repeat of a “Charlottesville-style” disruption. The Washington, DC experience was very different:

- On August 10, **George Washington University**, the university closest to the rally site, issued a message from **GW President Thomas LeBlanc** ahead of the rally condemning acts of racism and hate that are directly counter to the university’s core values of diversity and peaceful discourse and encouraged all members of the community to heed the safety warnings issued by the university;
- Despite fears, less than 40 white supremacists rallied even as thousands of counter-protesters showed up. The two groups were separated from each other by a massive police presence which cost the District of Columbia around $2.6 million in policing and other related costs. The District government planned to ask Congress for reimbursement; and
- Subsequently, the University of Virginia imposed a four-year ban from campus on Richard Spencer and nine other people who participated in the white-supremacist march in August 2017. The announcement followed a year-long investigation by UVA Police Department in coordination with state and federal law enforcement agencies that identified the ten individuals as either committing or conspiring with others to carry out acts of violence or other conduct that directly threatened the health and safety of members of the community. Violators of no-trespass orders are subject to arrest.

**Midterm Elections of 2018**

*Local university engaged in activity around the election including:

- **The George Washington University**
  - Whose **Columbian School of Media and Public Affairs, Graduate School of Political Management** and the **Department of Political Science** released four polls which accurately predicted the outcome of the 2018 midterm elections. All four polls found a generally unfavorable environment for Republican candidates. For example, the second poll conducted in late July and early August, re-interviewed a group of registered voters first surveyed in May. It found 45 percent approved of the job President Trump was doing, virtually unchanged from the May survey. Moreover, as had been true in most polls, those who strongly disapproved of President Trump (46 percent) outnumber those who strongly approve (28 percent). YouGov, a leader in online polling, conducted the polls for **GW**; and
  - Whose **School of Media and Public Affairs (SMPA)** hosted Chuck Todd, host of NBC’s “Meet the Press,” who joined **SMPA** Director Frank Sesno in Betts Theatre on September 24 to discuss politics, the media, the midterm elections and the future of the American Political Press;

- **George Mason University’s Schar School** which sponsored a debate between incumbent Tim Kaine (D) and then-challenger Corey Stewart (R) that was attended by about 200 spectators at the Capitol One Bank headquarters in McLean, VA, and televised throughout the state by **NBC** affiliates; and
• **Trinity Washington University** graduates and honorary degree recipients were re-elected in DC and across the country in the mid-term elections and will continue to serve their country and community with pride. Among those elected were:
  - Congressman Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) (**Trinity ‘62**), who is now Speaker of the House—the first and only woman to be elected to that position;
  - Senator Kathleen Passidomo (R-Naples) (‘75), who won a second term in the Florida Senate;
  - Veronica Nolan (‘99), who was re-elected to the Alexandria, VA School Board; and
  - Two Honorary **Trinity** alumnae—Mayor Muriel Bowser (D-DC), re-elected to a second term; and Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC).

These electoral success demonstrate the truth of **Trinity**’s motto—**Trinity**: Where Women Lead!

**NEW INITIATIVES**

The successful partnership between **Howard University** and Google, formerly known as **Howard West**, expanded in September to include students from additional Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU’s) along with Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HIS’s). Now known as the **Tech Exchange**, the program will cover the full academic year, supporting 65 rising juniors and seniors and five faculty members from 11 institutions. The expansion comes after a successful three-month pilot program with **Howard University** students that was completed during the summer of 2017 at Google’s Mountain View headquarters in Silicon Valley. (For more on **Howard**-Google partnerships, see Research and Tech.)

*In December, **Marymount University** announced the selection of Workday Inc., a leader in enterprise cloud applications for finance and human resources, along with Workday Financial Management, Workday Human Capital Management (HCM) and Workday Student to manage student recruitment, admissions, curriculum, student records, academic advising, financial aid, and student financials as well as the university’s finance and human resource operations. The new partnership will help the university increase productivity allowing for an enhanced focus on enrollment growth; increased retention and graduation rates; and creating a culture of service quality for students.*

The **George Washington University Academic Commons**, a centralized, comprehensive online and in-person system that directs students to academic support resources, officially opened at **GW** on August 27. The new system, led by the Division of Libraries and Academic Innovation, originated with a request from the Student Association for a streamlined academic resource center.

**National Defense University College of Information and Cyberspace (CIC)** has recently launched two new social media initiatives:

• The first is a YouTube channel called “Topics That Matter.” The series explores important issues in the information and cyber domain. Among the topics discussed in the initial launch—the use of information as a weapon (offered by Professor Harry Wingo) and privacy and national security (offered by Professor George Trawick); and
• The second is a new video series that presents thoughts from leaders at the intersection of information, cyberspace, and national security. Among the first presenters was Brigadier General Joseph Brendler (USA ret.) former Chief of Staff US Cyber Command.

The University of Maryland, together with Maryland Governor Larry Hogan, has announced a new center at UMD designed to improve college and career outcomes for students and youth with disabilities. The Center for Transition and Career Innovation (CTCI), housed in the University of Maryland College of Education, will foster partnerships among university faculty and local, state and national agencies and organizations to promote research, improvements in practice, and supportive governmental policies that advance workforce readiness for youth with disabilities.

Georgetown University dedicated the Maria & Alberto de la Cruz Art Gallery during the fall semester. Funded by gifts from generous alumni and other donors, the Gallery is expected to present world-class art exhibitions and engagement programs to members of the campus community, the Georgetown neighborhood, and the Washington, DC region. Housed in the Walsh Building at 3535 Prospect Street, NW, the Gallery has been under construction since February 2017. Al Miner, who joined Georgetown in 2017 as Founding Director/Chief Curator of Georgetown University Art Galleries and Associate Professor of the Practice in the Department of Art and Art History, will provide strategic vision and much of the curatorial content for the new Gallery.

American University teamed up with Sony to launch the innovative Tour AU Mobile Admissions App, which uses augmented reality technology. No matter where they live, Tour AU allows prospective students and their families to explore campus through virtual reality 360 degrees videos and listen to comments from real students. An additional feature using “beacon technology” pushes information and events to them automatically and even permits students to take a virtual selfie with the AU mascot Clawed or AU President Sylvia Burwell. AU is the only university in DC currently offering this technology to prospective students and families.

The University of Maryland’s Office of Diversity and Inclusion (ODI) has launched an online hate-bias report log to help keep the campus community abreast of hate-related incidents that occur on campus. The log, a key recommendation of the Joint President/Senate Inclusion and Respect Task Force, is accessible to all UMD students, faculty and staff. Since its implementation, several initiatives have been established and additional programs have been expanded including the creation of a Hate-Bias Response Team; an update of the Hate-Bias Response Protocol; a newly streamlined online reporting form; newly developed Hate-Bias training sessions; and a new, easy to navigate website that features up-to-date information about Hate-Bias Response Program; and a list of resources available to faculty, students and staff.

In November, Georgetown University hosted the Music Policy Forum where the university and the DC Government jointly announced a new collaboration to create a DC Music Census as part of the DC Cultural Plan. The Music Census, the first of its kind for the District, will map the music economy here, including how many musicians reside and work in DC and how they earn a living. The goal of the census is to help the city and community make more informed, data-driven decisions to grow the music ecosystem. The Music Census is being spearheaded by Georgetown professor Anna Celenza. The expanded census project launched in January 2019 and a report detailing the results will be issued next fall.

**Spotlight: Presidents**
Marymount University’s new president, Dr. Irma Becerra, announced a series of initiatives aimed at improving and advancing the university. Among the new initiatives is the design and execution of new Strategic Plan. As part of this effort, current students, faculty, staff and alumni will have a chance to engage in this Strategic Planning Process. The Plan is structured on four strategic imperatives identified by Dr. Becerra through her engagement with the Marymount community. They are:

- Expanding the number of students who can benefit from a Marymount education by increasing enrollment;
- Emphasizing student success to improve retention and timely graduation;
- Providing outstanding service to students, faculty, and staff to remove all challenges to learning, teaching; and
- Supporting students.

*Trinity Washington University President Patricia McGuire* wrote an op-ed for the November 30 edition of the Chronicle of Higher Education promoting the passage of a federal Dream Act to give permanent US citizenship status to young people who were brought to the United States illegally as children by their parents. In her article, President McGuire discusses Trinity’s partnership with TheDream.US, an organization with a mission to help these young people on their college journeys. She closes her article with the observation “And with each scholarship, each advising session, each honor, each moment of listening and support in times of stress, each time we let Dreamers know they are welcome here, we bend the arc of immigration history a little bit closer to achieving justice.” She also wrote a second op-ed for the Chronicle on mission and metrics in higher education entitled “Yes, We Need Accountability. But Was Also Need Institutional Diversity.”

As part of Prince George’s County Community College celebration of its 60th anniversary, the College also celebrated President Charlene Dukes’ 10th anniversary as the College’s president highlighting the following milestones:

- President Dukes’ trailblazing role as the first woman and first African-American appointed President of the College;
- The many new initiatives she has spearheaded including:
  - A partnership with the Prince George’s County Public schools to start the first middle college in the state of Maryland;
  - the Academy of Health Sciences;
  - Pathways in Technology Early College (P-Tech);
  - Information Technology Early College (ITEC); and
  - the 3D Scholars Program;
- President Dukes’ complete realignment and implementation of a new Strategic Plan including a new mission and vision statement and the launch of the Pathways model; and
- The creation of the Capital Campaigns project, which included the funding of construction of the new Culinary Arts Center and the renovation of Lanham Hall and the Center for Performing Arts scheduled to open in the fall of 2019. (For more on the 60th anniversary celebration, see Place to Be. For more on the Center for Performing Arts, see Campus News.)

George Mason University President Angel Cabrera penned an Op-ed in the Washington Post in November expressing concern about the declining number of international students choosing to study in the
President Cabrera points out that foreign student enrollment has declined two years in a row—down 10 percent since its high water mark in 2015-16. **President Cabrera** notes that international students create economic value and jobs, contribute to talent pools in critical disciplines, pump resources into universities and enrich campuses intellectually and culturally. In 2016-17, students from outside the United States contribute $42 billion to the US economy with the Virginia economy receiving $711 million into the state economy alone.

**George Washington University President Thomas LeBlanc**, who recently celebrated his first anniversary at the university, joined GW staff at the annual Proud to Be GW festival in Foggy Bottom, thanking staff for their contributions to the university that he said would help advance the university’s strategic initiatives. **GW**’s annual Proud to Be GW festivals took place on the Foggy Bottom and Virginia Science and Technology campuses on August 7 and 9, respectively.

**National Defense University President Vice Admiral Fritz Roegge** was the keynote speaker during the USS John Warner (SSN 785) Change of Command Ceremony. Commander William Wiley relieved Commander Burt Canfield as commanding officer of the USS John Warner. The ceremony was covered extensively in the military and Norfolk, VA press.

The **University of Maryland** has seen some leadership changes as **President Wallace Loh** originally announced his retirement as of June 2019 as well as the firing of the football coach and the resignation of the Chair of the Maryland Board of Regents. **President Loh** has since announced that he will remain in his post through mid-2020 to give the Board of Regents the opportunity to search for a successor. The Board also selected Regent Gary Attman, a businessman and **UMD** graduate, to chair the presidential search committee.

**George Washington University President Thomas LeBlanc** participated in a remembrance ceremony honoring the memory of the nine **GW** alumni who died because of the September 11 2001 tragedy as well as all of those who subsequently lost their lives as a result of the attacks that day.

**National Defense University President Admiral Fritz Roegge** had a cameo appearance at the premier of the Hollywood movie titled *Hunter-Killer* starring actor Gerard Butler as the commander of a fictional attack submarine seeking to avert war with Russia. **President Roegge** accompanied Mr. Butler during his October 15 Pentagon visit and then again at the movie’s premier at the Sea, Air & Space Museum in New York City. **President Roegge** initially met Mr. Butler when the Admiral was the Commander of the US Submarine Force in the Pacific. **President Roegge** also hosted the actor at Pearl Harbor as Mr. Butler oriented himself with the submarine force.

**GOLD STARS**

The **National War College** at the **National Defense University** awarded the first Theodore Roosevelt Award, sponsored by the Theodore Roosevelt Association (TRA), to **National War College** alumnus Group Captain Peter “Spike” Davies of the Royal Australian Air Force. The award was created to recognize demonstrated military leadership and scholarship. Captain Davies received his honor at the TRA’s 99th Annual Gala at the Harvard Club of New York City which included in attendance Tweed Roosevelt, great grandson of President Theodore Roosevelt and president of the TRA as well as comedian Conan O’Brien, who was the evening’s keynote speaker.
On September 20, the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) Investor Education Foundation awarded Annamaria Lusardi, the Denit Trust Chair of Economics and Accountancy at the George Washington University School of Business and founder and Academic Director of the university’s Global Financial Literacy Excellence Center, with the 2018 Ketchum Prize for Outstanding Service and Research to advance investor protection and financial capability in the US.

George Mason University professor Lincoln Mullen’s most recent book, *The Chance of Salvation: A History of Conversion in America,* has been awarded the “Best First Book in the History of Religions Award” by the American Academy of Religion. Mullen, who is Chair of Mason’s Department of Art and Art History, examines the 19th-century origins of the widespread belief in American Culture that religion is a matter of individual choice.

In November, the biennial Campus Compact Mid-Atlantic (CCMA) President’s Institute announced faculty award winners who have engaged in supporting their communities. The Campus Compact is an organization co-founded by President DeGioia when he was a staff member at Georgetown University, along with staff members from Stanford, and Brown Universities in 1985 to promote community engagement among institutions of higher education. The 2018 Mid-Atlantic Chapter awarded winners included:

- Professor John Hirsch who was awarded the Engaged Scholarship Career Award for his work as the primary faculty member at the Sursum Corda Project, a program founded in 1970 by a Gonzaga High School priest who recruited Georgetown students to tutor children at the drug-and-poverty-stricken housing complex just off North Capital Street; and
- Professor Christopher King who was awarded the Early Career Engaged Scholarship Award. King spearheaded Georgetown University’s recent report, “The Health of the African American Community in the District of Columbia: Disparities and Recommendations,” which analyzed health disparities experienced by DC African-Americans. The report was cited by the DC Council in support of funding it earmarked to develop strategies to address the troubling inequalities identified in the report.

George Mason University professor Danielle Rudes received the American Society of Criminology Teaching Award for 2018. Rudes is Deputy Director of Mason’s Center for Advancing Correctional Excellence. Rudes was recognized for her scholarship on issues related to corrections, probation, parole, jail and prison. She has also received multiple awards at Mason including the Teaching Excellence Award, the Mentoring Excellence Award and the Emerging Researcher, Scholar, Creator Award.

The George Washington University School of Nursing has been named a 2018-22 Center of Excellence by the National League for Nursing (NLN). GW Nursing was recognized in the category of “enhanced student learning and professional development” for its enduring commitment to best practices in pedagogy and investment in modern technologies. GW Nursing earned this honor by demonstrating sustained excellence in faculty development, nursing education research or student learning and professional development. GW Nursing was formally recognized during the Honors Convocation at the 2018 NLN Education Summit on September 14 in Chicago, and was one of the 16 programs to be recognized this year.
On October 22, Dr. Frank Hoffman from the Institute for National Strategic Studies at National Defense University, received an award from the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO), Admiral John Richardson, for placing third in the CNO’s Naval History Essay Contest. Dr. Hoffman’s essay was a comparative analysis of British grand strategy in the Seven Years War contrasted to today’s era of the US National Defense Strategy.

Senior Advisor to DC Mayor Muriel Bowser (and Georgetown University alumna) Beverly Perry (L’81) presented a Mayoral Proclamation to Georgetown University’s Community Scholar Program (CSP) in celebration of fifty years of achievements. The CSP supports first-generation, multicultural and other underrepresented college students from DC and around the country on their collegiate journey providing them with a transformative experience with lasting impact. The program’s 91percent graduation rate (compared to the 59percent national average) demonstrates its success. CSP was established in 1968 after the assassination of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and as riots occurred in cities across the nation and the District of Columbia.

**Campus News**

Prince George’s County Community College is in the process of constructing a new Center for Performing Arts that will serve the dual purpose of providing a building for academics as well as allowing for revenue-generating productions and shows—including touring theatre productions, guest artists series, and concerts. Facts about the building are as follows:

- The renovated building (formerly called The Queen Anne) will expand in size from a little over 33,000 square feet to more than 170,000 square feet;
- It will house three theatres, including a black box theatre, dance and broadcast studios, and an art gallery; and
- It will serve as the premier destination for arts education and cultural expression in the County.

*Guided by its strategic plan, the University of the District of Columbia has executed a long-term lease agreement with a purchase option for a property adjacent to its Van Ness Campus at 4250 Connecticut Avenue, NW. The building is on top of the Van Ness/UDC Metro Station. The new building features approximately 202,000 square feet of mixed-use space and includes 7.5 stories of office space located on 1.5 acres at the corner of Connecticut Avenue and Veazey Streets, NW. The initial plan is to use the building as swing space during a $200 million renovation project on the Van Ness campus.*

*Trinity Washington University President Patricia McGuire and the 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 opened with a feature photo of two Trinity STEM scholars, Kimberly Cruz ’18 and Raissa Audrey Tseumie ’18. The article noted that there is 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.”*

It is college rankings season and several Consortium members are on the “best of” lists including:

- Catholic University of America:
  - Which placed 129th on the US News & World Report list of best colleges;
• **George Mason University:**
  o Which showed up in the *US News & World Report* as having the No. 3 graduate program in the nation for Homeland/National Security and Emergency Management Studies;
  o Which was ranked No. 6 nationally by *Washington Monthly* magazine in its Best Four-Year College for Adult Learners list. According to its website, *Washington Monthly* looked at 3,487 postsecondary institutions and used seven metrics in its analysis for the list including: ease of transfer and enrollment; flexibility of programs; services available for adult students; percentage of students 25-and-older; part-time student graduation rates; mean earnings of adult students ten years after entering college; and loan payment rates for adult students five years after beginning repayments. Adding to GMU’s adult learners value is initiatives such as the Online Virginia Network and graduate courses offered through a partnership with Wiley & Sons; and vastly expanding Mason’s online offerings, which cater to adult learners;

• **Georgetown University:**
  o Which in the *US News & World Reports*:
    ▪ Placed 22nd on the best college list; and
    ▪ Tied for 15th place for its graduate business program;

• **George Washington University:**
  o Which in the *US News & World Reports*:
    ▪ Placed 63rd (tied with the *University of Maryland*) on the best colleges list and;
    ▪ Placed 42 for its graduate business program;

• **Howard University:**
  o Which on the *US News & World Report*’s list of best colleges:
    ▪ Climbed 21 spots to No. 89. The ranking is a personal best for Howard and follows last year’s 14 point improvement. “Reaching No. 89 on the *US News & World Report* ranking is a phenomenal achievement and it’s also a very strong endorsement that our strategy is working, that the University is progressing in the right direction,” said Howard University President Wayne A.I. Frederick;
    ▪ Climbed two spots to No. 73 on the list of Best Values Schools;
    ▪ Rose one spot to No. 127 on the list of Best Undergraduate Business programs; and
    ▪ Retained its ranking of no. 2 among top historically Black colleges and universities; (For more on Howard’s improvement, see below)

• **Marymount University:**
  o Which on the *US News and World Report*’s list of best colleges:
    ▪ ranks first among regional universities in the South for International students; and
    ▪ Which ranks second in campus ethnic diversity;

• **University of Maryland:**
  o Which placed 63rd (tied with *George Washington University*) on the best universities list;
  o Which on *Forbes* list
    ▪ was ranked as the No. 2 public university in the state of Maryland; and
    ▪ was ranked the nation’s No. 12 public university in the country. The *Forbes* rankings look at academic criterion including retention and graduation rates. *UMD*’s no. 12 ranking puts it in the top 10 percent of the 650+ schools listed;
Which the Campus Pride Index ranked as the “Best of the Best” Top 30 LGBTQ-friendly campuses for its LGBTQ inclusive policies, programs and practices. **UMD** received five out of five stars for its efforts to create a safer, more inclusive campus learning environment. The Campus Pride Index includes 330 campuses;

Which *Money Magazine* named one of America’s best college values. **UMD**’s value was ranked in the top 20 among public colleges and top 30 among all 727 schools considered. *Money* evaluates the financial value of a university’s degree by reviewing its graduation rate (**UMD**’s is 87 percent); its average student debt (**UMD**’s is low) and prospective early career earnings (**UMD**’s is high);

Which *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education* named it a Top 100 Minority Degree Producer:
- UMD is listed as No. 1 in the state for conferring bachelor degrees to minority students;
- It is top 25 for Asian American bachelor’s degrees;
- It is top 2 for African American bachelor’s; and
- It is top 25 for total minority professional doctoral degrees; and

Which *Washington Monthly Magazine* listed among 58 universities in the nation who have high rates of students voting. **UMD** also participated in the Big Ten Voting Challenge which aimed to register even more students. (For more on college rankings, see New You Can Use—On Campus).

**Howard University** is reveling in its improved ranking on the *US News & World Report*. (See Above.) **Howard University President Wayne A.I. Frederick** has implemented several new programs to increase students’ ability to stay on track to graduation—a key factor in *US News*’ rating system. In fall 2014, only 60 percent of freshmen were taking enough credits to be considered sophomores after a year in school. Now, the figure is 85.5 percent. Students have also been encouraged to graduate either early or on time with a tuition rebate program and a summer school that is tuition-free for those who qualify. Additional supports include improvements in technology to enhance students’ ability to stay on track and the installation of an Office of Undergraduate Studies, primarily focused on advising, providing tutoring services, and enhancing the student academic experience. **Howard** has also improved its first-year retention rate to above the national average.

In a different rating system, the *Washington Business Journal*, **George Mason University** with its 6,777 employees, is the 28th largest employer of the National Capital Region and the 13th largest employer in Northern Virginia. (The list did not include federal workplaces.) The ranking is the latest to cite **Mason** as a major employer. Last spring, *Forbes* named **Mason** as one of America’s best employers, ranking the university 54th among 500 top midsize companies.

**George Mason University** is the lead institution for the Mid-Atlantic Higher Education Recruitment Consortium (HERC), which is made up of 65 institutions in Maryland, Virginia and Washington, DC, and is dedicated to equality and excellence in higher education recruitment. In its leadership role, **Mason** will hire a Director of Mid-Atlantic HERC and Diversity Outreach—an employee who will split his or her time evenly between HERC and helping **Mason** expand and implement initiatives around the recruitment of diverse talent. The newest focus on diversity strengthens **Mason’s** commitment to create an inclusive academic community that reflects the diversity of its student body and that of the National Capital Region.
In November, the University of the District of Columbia announced that it had signed an exclusive pouring agreement with PepsiCo. Under the deal, PepsiCo will be the exclusive supplier of carbonated and noncarbonated, nonalcoholic beverages at UDC. In exchange, PepsiCo will create a beverage program for the university including “quality products” and “state-of-the-art” equipment as well as pay the university $91,000 per year for ten years as well as a $60,000 in initial support funds. PepsiCo brands include Pepsi, Mountain Dew, Starbucks ready-to-drink beverages, Gatorade, Propel and Pure Leaf teas.

In October, five Supreme Court Justices assembled at George Mason University’s Scalia Law School to witness the unveiling of a sculpture of the law school’s namesake, Justice Antonin Scalia. Rising 8 1/2 feet, the larger-than-life bronze sculpture is now the centerpiece of the atrium at the school bearing Scalia’s name. Four who served with Scalia were there—Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr. and Justices Samuel Alito, Jr., Elena Kagan, and Clarence Thomas. Justice Neil M. Gorsuch, who took Justice Scalia’s seat on the court, also attended. Students, faculty, and others joined the extended Scalia family at the event which also featured remarks from George Mason University President Ángel Cabrera.

On November 20, the University of Maryland and partner Capital One Financial Corporation revealed its new innovation lab for computer science and engineering work. The Center has been financed by a $3 million investment from Capital One which includes a $2.1 million endowed faculty chair and $900,000 to support research and program sin data analytics, artificial intelligence and cybersecurity. Students will be able to use the center to “get their feet wet” in areas relevant to today’s workforce. The space comprises 7,500 square feet on the ground level of the Hotel at the University of Maryland, across the street from campus.

**GREEN CAMPUS**

In October, the Georgetown Climate Center (GCC) was awarded the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments’ (WMCOG) 2018 Climate and Energy Leadership Award. The annual award is presented to organizations for their outstanding efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase energy efficiency, and advance regional goals established by leaders at the Council of Governments. The GCC, in partnership with the District Department of Energy and the Environment (DOEE), conducted a year-long community engagement project in Ward 7, a neighborhood particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. The GCC worked directly with thirteen Ward 7 residents who chaired the Equity Advisory Group (EAG), to compile strategic ideas for how to make their neighborhood more sustainable and environmentally resilient.

American University now has 18 electric vehicle charging stations across its main campus and the Washington College of Law. The stations represent part of AU’s commitment to providing sustainable transportation options and maintaining campus-wide carbon neutrality. The new stations are capable of Level 2 charging, fully charging most vehicles in under five hours, and efficiently serving multiple customers throughout the day.

Researchers at the George Washington University have published a study of all climate change cases from 1990 through 2016 which has found that litigants asking the courts for additional regulations to curb emissions more frequently lost than won. Researchers examined 873 lawsuits and found that the most common climate change issues brought to court involved coal-fired power plants and other air quality concerns. The study, “Strategies in and Outcomes of Climate Change Litigation in the United States,”
coauthored by Sabrina McCormick, Associate Professor of Environmental and Occupational Health at the Milken Institute School of Public Health; and Robert L. Glicksman, the J.B. and Maurice C. Shapiro Professor of Environmental Law at GW Law, was published online August 20 in the journal Nature Climate Change.

A new study led by University of Maryland (UMD) scientists conducted novel climate and vegetation model experiments to show that wind and solar farms could lead to a more than doubling of rainfall in the Sahara and an increase of up to about 20 inches (500 mm/year) in the Sahel, a semi-arid transition region that lies south of the Sahara.

On September 5, the Georgetown University community heard from a sustainability thought leader, a faculty member, a student and the university president on the planet’s global plastics crisis; alternatives to plastics; and other measures to create a healthy campus and planet. William McDonough, a circular economy and sustainable development expert with William McDonough + Partners, noted that 18 billion pounds of plastics are being dumped into the world’s oceans every year and that more than 90 percent of bottled water contains microplastics harmful to humans. Georgetown University President John DeGioia also attended the event.

The Washington Post profiled George Washington University’s GroW Garden, a volunteer-supported community garden that started in 2009. Twenty one GW students keep the garden going which is planted with shishito peppers, kale, Swiss chard, bell peppers, jalapenos, tomatoes, cabbage, eggplant, amarynth, apples, peaches, pears, parsley, cilantro, red okra, zucchini, sunflowers, and a fig tree. GroW Garden donates most of its harvest to Miriam’s Kitchen, an organization in Foggy Bottom which feeds homeless people.

Georgetown University’s new Core Pathways Initiative is giving undergraduates the opportunity to address some of the world’s most complex problems while meeting their core undergraduate requirements. The university’s Designing the Future(s) Initiative launched the Core Pathway on Climate Change (CPCC) as a pilot program last year. Core Pathways is based on the idea that some issues are so complex that they require a number of different disciplines to address them. As of fall semester, about 100 students so far have pursued core and elective requirements in the sciences, theology, history, the humanities and philosophy through the climate change lens.

**CLASS NOTES**

To kick off the fall semester, several Consortium members invited incoming freshmen to participate in Days of Service:

- At American University over 750 new students, along with AU President Sylvia M. Burwell, contributed to the DC community through Explore DC. The annual event involves community service, immersion experiences, and speakers from DC organizations;
- At George Washington University, President Thomas LeBlanc, Provost Forrest Maltzman, faculty staff, and student leaders officially welcomed the class of 2022 at GW’s Freshman Day of Service and Convocation in the Smith Center on September 8. Following the ceremony, students and staff volunteers traveled to sites around the greater DC area to participate in a day of service; and
At Georgetown University, every first-year law student, Dean and staff member started the semester by serving others in a variety of projects at the DC Central Kitchen, the National Arboretum and other community spaces.

National Defense University kicked off its 2018-19 academic year with a Convocation Ceremony on the steps of Roosevelt Hall at Fort McNair on August 8. NDU President Vice Admiral Roegge welcomed the incoming class urging class members to make the most of the 10-month academic year, as they prepare for challenging national security tasks that will be part of their careers.

On August 25, George Washington University President Thomas LeBlanc welcomed incoming students and families to GW during move-in day along with Dean of the Student Experience Cissy Petty. President LeBlanc also sent a letter welcoming the GW community back to campus for the start of the 2018-19 academic year providing an update on the university strategic initiatives and including a welcome back video ceremony. GW also held a reception for first-year graduate students in Lisner Auditorium on August 13 where administrators, faculty, and fellow students welcomed the new class to campus.

A class of 129 students enrolled across 21 majors comprise the inaugural class of the ADVANCE program at George Mason University. An additional 200 students are set to enroll for the spring semester. ADVANCE is a partnership between Mason and Northern Virginia Community College that provides a more seamless and affordable path to a college degree for transfer students. Michelle Marks, Mason’s Vice President for Academic Innovation and New Ventures, said the university expects to expand offerings to 50 ADVANCE majors by the 2019-20 academic year. Projections indicate that ADVANCE enrollment could swell to 6,500 students by 2030. “We’re developing what could become a national model for supporting transfer students,” Marks said.

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. Among stories about the class:

- Undergraduate, graduate, medical and law students begin or returned to Georgetown traditions at the start of the school year including:
  - the Welcome Back Jack! BBQ;
  - the Mass of the Holy Spirit;
  - The New Student Convocation which was keynoted by Emilio Joubert (C’19) who won the prestigious McTighe Prize. 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);
  - The White Coat Ceremony at the Medical School at which Dr. Stephen Ray Mitchell, Dean of the School of Medicine, told the incoming class about the “magical” journey medical school represents after which new students receive their iconic white coats; and
  - Weeks of Welcome events which ran through October.

- Notable among the new students were the identical Osborne triplets—Nicolas, Zachary and Benjamin—who have all begun a master’s degree program in economics. The three young men do almost everything together including learning Chinese Mandarin, walking about ten miles a day and eating popcorn, especially at the movies;

- The class as a whole was comprised of students from 17 different religious faiths, haled from 49 states and 53 countries and was mostly female (57 percent female to 43 percent male). The largest
contingent of international students came from China, the United Kingdom, South Korea, India, Canada, Hong Kong, Lebanon, Spain and Switzerland. In addition, more than 100 students transferred to Georgetown from other schools and 89 were either class presidents or student government presidents.

The Medical Science schools at George Washington University welcomed its newest classes:

- The GW School of Medicine and Health Sciences (SMHS) hosted its annual M.D. White Coat and Honor Code Ceremony in Lisner Auditorium on August 11 for the medical school class of 2022, their families and friends. Keynote speaker and alumnus Babak Sarani, (MD ’97), Professor of Surgery at SMHS, spoke about the importance and the challenges of donning the White Coat. The ceremony is a reminder to students of medicine’s primary goal to serve patients; and

- On August 13, the GW School of Nursing welcomed 47 students, as well as three students from GW Nursing’s online RN to BSN option, into the nursing profession with a traditional Pinning Ceremony in Lisner Auditorium. The tradition dates back to Florence Nightingale, who presented medals to her hardest-working nurses. It is now a tradition for all newly-graduated nurses to receive a pin from their nursing schools in recognition of graduation. A faculty member or nurse of the student’s choice “pins” the student.

Students at Georgetown University Medical School have founded GUSOM Generation I, an interest group designed to help first-generation students navigate medical school. Matt Triano (M’21), Toyosi Ipaye (M’21), Francis Navarra (M’21), and Haley Roumimper (M’21) are among the founding members of the group started in the spring of 2018 as a safe space for students who are among the first in their families to graduate from US-based colleges or the first in their families to attend medical school. The group plans to provide mentors to like-positioned students and hold social gatherings to share experiences.

The Trump Era, filled with breaking news and questions about social media and “truth” in journalism, appears to be driving an upsurge in journalism school applications. At the University of Maryland’s Philip Merrill College of Journalism, an estimated 130 freshman entered the Journalism College this fall, up 50 percent compared with the previous year. A Washington Post article about the phenomena said that undergraduate enrollments are also up at journalism schools at Northwestern University, Syracuse University, Arizona State University. Arizona State and the University of Maryland will also receive $3 million over the next three years from the Scripps Howard Foundation to establish centers for investigative journalism for graduate students.

Over the summer the Georgetown University Walsh School of Foreign Service announced its 2018-2019 Centennial Fellows. The cohort includes General Wesley K. Clark (ret.), former Supreme Allied Commander of NATO; Georgetown alumnus Ambassador Jeffrey DeLaurentis (SFS’76) (ret), former US Chargé d’Affaires to Cuba; Dr. Scott Guggenheim, former Senior Advisor to Afghan President Ashraf Ghani; Dr. Azar Nafisi, author of the national bestseller Reading Lolita in Tehran: A Memoir in Books; and Catherine Novelli, former Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy and the Environment. The SFS Centennial Fellows Program brings important global practitioners to Georgetown for a one or two-semester residency.

**ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**
George Mason University’s Volgenau School of Engineering is offering a new Bioengineering Master’s Degree that will complement the existing bachelor’s and doctoral programs. It is designed to educate leaders who understand and appreciate how bio-medical technology is translated from bedside to production. The program will also focus on the entrepreneurial aspects of bioengineering such as whether a theoretical approach is practical for investments and is likely to produce social benefit.

Corey Fields, the Georgetown University Sociology Department’s Idol Family Term Chair, will lead a new Georgetown College Ignatius Seminar this fall on Black participation in post-civil rights social movements. The College’s three-credit Ignatius Seminars, one of several options for its first-year students, are designed to introduce students to the depth and diversity of Georgetown’s intellectual community. The seminars are named for St. Ignatius of Loyola, who founded the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits) in the 16th century. Fields is the author of *Black Elephants in the Room: The Unexpected Politics of African American Republicans* (University of California Press, 2016).

*Trinity Washington University’s* baccalaureate nursing program received full approval from the District of Columbia Board of Nursing in December 2018. The DC Board of Nursing granted full approval to the nursing program as a result of *Trinity’s* achievement of a first-time NCLEX pass rate of 82.6 percent, above the required threshold of 80 percent. In announcing the news, Trinity President Patricia 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 Professionals. This achievement represents many years of very 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.

American University launched a new Project on Civil Discourse spearheaded by its Director, Lara Schwartz. The project will include student-led discussions, student-peer facilitators, a downloadable PDF, and speakers and will tackle complicated questions around speech and civility. Schwartz notes how the Project on Civil Discourse isn’t necessarily about “healthy debates” among students. “Civil discourse involves listening,” she says, “so we’ll look at what listening means.”

George Mason University has created a new Web design minor. The new minor is a collaboration between the College and Humanities and Social Sciences (CHSS), the School of Art in the College of Visual and Performing Arts and the Volgenau School of Engineering. The multidisciplinary nature of the minor was likened to “intellectual cross-training” by Robert Matz, Senior Associate Dean of Curriculum and Technology in CHSS. It also represents one of Mason’s strategic goals—the encouragement of academic innovation.

Applications for Georgetown University McDonough School of Business’s new Flex MBA Program opened enrollment over the summer of 2018. The new program is slated to begin in the fall of 2019. Enrolled students can complete the program in as little as 28 months or as long as five years, depending on the students’ schedule. The Flex MBA is a continuation of the school’s highly regarded Evening MBA offering which has been one of the nation’s premier part-time MBA programs since 2005. The Flex MBA’s flexibility comes from three new features—the use of technology in a hybrid format involving on-campus classes supplemented with virtual ones; flexible in-class scheduling including Saturday
classes; and one-and-two week long Intensive Learning Experience courses; and a revised completion date to suit the student giving them a shorter or longer period to complete depending on their need.

American University’s School of Communications (SOC) announced a new Skills Intensives series, which features courses providing flexible online training with a one-day, in-person experience. The courses can be taken for credit and are open to current students and the general public. The “Social Media Analytics + Meltwater Certification Class” took place on November 9 and assisted students in exploring digital analytics in social media and use the data to craft better content and more effective deployment strategies through real-time simulations. Students who completed the one-day course and additional online training were eligible for a certificate. The course reflects the SOC’s determination to be more responsive to market needs by offering more classes that are flexible in terms of the amount of time they take and also by providing a mix of online and in-person experiences.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

*Trinity Washington University President Patricia McGuire* was one of ten presidents of Minority Serving Institutions (MSI’s) invited to a special presidents’ convening during the Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE) Annual Conference in Barcelona, Spain, in November. This was a joint project of CIEE and the University of Pennsylvania Center for MSIs run by MaryBeth Gasman to create a pathway for significant engagement of students of color with study abroad opportunities which is currently 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.

On September 13, the George Washington University Elliott School’s Sigur Center for Asian Studies hosted Yukio Edano, leader of the Constitutional Democratic Party, the largest opposition political party in Japan. Leader Edano discussed his party’s impact in contemporary Japanese politics as well as the implications of its foreign policy perspectives for Japan, the region and the world.

Georgetown University and *La Civiltà*, a journal published by the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits), announced the launch of the China Forum for Civilizational Dialogue, which will bring Chinese thought leaders together with their international counterparts to explore common challenges at the intersection of culture, technology and global society. The forum’s first three topics were: the crisis of ecological civilization; the ethics of artificial intelligence; and humanities education for a global era. The China Forum plans to host expert seminars and high-level public events in leading global cities, including Rome, Washington, DC, San Francisco and Beijing.

In October, the US Ambassador to Indonesia and former professor at National Defense University---Ambassador Joseph R. Donovan, Jr.--hosted a reception at the US Embassy in Jakarta for alumni of the Distinguished Visitor Orientation Tour (DVOT) program. Some 70 senior Indonesian military officers, and a variety of American military personnel attended the reception. The US Embassy conceived of the event in order to leverage the network of DVOT alumni thereby augmenting an increasingly productive relationship between the Department of Defense’s Office of Defense Corporation and NDU.

On September 23, the George Washington University Confucius Institute presented a Beijing Opera performance by the DC Beauty of Beijing Opera (DCBBO). The DCBBO briefly introduced the
history and performance styles of Beijing Opera, followed by a performance of six featured scenes from classic Chinese operas.

Georgetown University alumnus and faculty member, Dr. Daniel Sulmasy (G’95), who was recently appointed Acting Director of Georgetown’s Kennedy Institute of Ethics (KIE), commented on Pope Francis’ recent announcements rejecting the death penalty in Catholic Church teachings. Dr. Sulmasy expressed little surprise in the Pope’s announcement noting that the Catholic Church has been wary of capital punishment since Pope (now Saint) John Paul II denounced it. Dr. Sulmasy added that based on the new Papal comments, KIE would begin to expand its focus from the ethics of care at the end of life to thinking about the ethics of the death penalty.

Sponsored Research

The University of Maryland (UMD) is part of a multi-institutional team tasked with building a powerful set of language technologies that can unlock information that has previously been unsearchable, and ultimately unfindable. The four-year project, funded by a $14.4M grant from the Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Activity (IARPA), is expected to produce a language processing system that allows a user to type in a query in English and have information returned in English—even if the content is only available in a lesser-known language like Croatian. The project involves faculty, postdocs, and students from UMD, Columbia University, Yale University, the University of Cambridge, and the University of Edinburgh with Columbia as the lead institution. Among the UMD faculty participating are Douglas Oard, from the College of Information Studies; Philip Resnik, linguistics professor; Marine Carpuat, Assistant Professor of Computer Science; and Hal Daumé, Professor of Computer Science and the Language Science Center.

University of Maryland Professor Utpal Pal is leading a multi-institution team of researchers that will receive up to $7.7 million over five years from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases for an ongoing research program to understand how the immune responses of ticks contribute to the spread of Lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses. Pal, a professor of veterinary medicine who is a recognized leader in the field of research, will collaborate with researchers from the University of Maryland School of Medicine, Yale University and the University of Minnesota on research across different aspects of tick immunology. Dr. Pal will direct the core administrative activities for the program.

Georgetown University physics professor James Freericks is part of a team that recently won a $4.5 million competitive research grant from the US Department of Energy. Professor Freericks will work with a team of physicists from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Stanford University and Los Alamos National Laboratory on how X-rays can be used in solids. “We’re hoping to break new ground in a number of different areas of X-ray science,” said Professor Freericks.

Marymount University’s Dr. Rita Wong, PT, EdD, FAPTA, Professor and Vice Provost, received a Fall Prevention Grant which she plans to use to address research into falls among older adults that represent substantial public health challenges. In 2015, 850,000 hospitalizations and 29,000 deaths were attributed to falls. During the three-year duration of the grant, the goal is to reach over 5,500 older adults through community partnerships with the goal of improving the quality of life for the country’s aging population.
Two Georgetown University psychology professors will conduct among the most comprehensive contemporary longitudinal studies of public pre-kindergarten outcomes with a new $2.7 million grant from the National Institutes of Health. The professors--Principal Investigator Anna Johnson and Co-Investigator Deborah Phillips--will work with University of Oklahoma-Tulsa professor Diane Horn on the five year grant. Last year, Johnson and Phillips received a $1 million grant from the Spencer Foundation to determine the unidentified “active ingredients” of successful public pre-kindergarten programs.

George Mason University has received a $1.75 million grant from the National Science Foundation for a collaborative research project designed to increase the number of women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). The Departments of Biology, Mathematical Sciences, Physics and Astronomy, and Computer Science, have partnered to design the curriculum to improve undergraduate STEM teaching for more than 13,000 students at Mason over the next five years. The majority of the grant will go to the hiring of additional graduate teaching assistants, who will help develop active learning techniques that engage students.

Researchers at the University of Maryland (UMD) have received a $1.5 million grant from the National Science Foundation to support work on the creation of a first-of-a-kind microelectronic devices that can communicate with biological systems in ways that could have revolutionary impacts on the design of electronic devices and computing systems and on the diagnosis and treatment of disease. Team members include William E. Bentley, UMD Fischell Department of Bioengineering, professor and Director of UMD’s Robert E. Fischell Institute for Biomedical Devices; Reza Ghodssi, the Herbert Rabin Distinguished Chair in Engineering with affiliations in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and the Institute for Systems Research; UMD Professor Gregory Payne, Institute for Bioscience and Biotechnology Research; Assistant Professor Massimiliano Pierobon, University of Nebraska-Lincoln’s Department of Computer Science and Engineering; and Biotechnology Scientist Jessica Terrell, US Army Research Laboratory.

University of Maryland (UMD) Associate Professor Michael Gollner will co-lead a first-of-its-kind research effort to quantify the pulmonary and cardiovascular health consequences to firefighters exposed to wildland fire smoke. The research is supported by a $1.5 million award from the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program administered through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The smoke from wildland fires has not been studied as thoroughly as the smoke from structural fires meaning that wildland firefighters have no standards or requirements for prescriptive regulatory protection and their repeated exposure over the course of a summer deployments has gone unstudied. This new FEMA-funded research will address this area of fire science.

A team of University of Maryland researchers is developing a new mobile app to help people without regular access to health care cut through the thousands of fitness, nutrition, brain health and other offerings by providing a sort of one-stop wellness shop. UMD School of Public Health researchers are tailoring the app for African-American and Spanish-speaking users of smartphones who will be able to set personal goals, enter personal and family health histories and access a variety of evidence-based information on disease prevention and health promotion. The project is supported by a new four-year, $1.3 million grant from the National Institutes of Health’s National Library of Medicine.

Akos Vertes, Professor of Chemistry in George Washington University’s Columbian College of Arts and Sciences (CAS), was awarded a $1.3 million grant from the Intelligence Advanced Research
Projects Activity for the Proteos Program, a multi-year project to develop a new human identification method based on the analysis of proteins.

Katerine Tully, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture at the University of Maryland, was recently awarded $1.1 million by the National Institute for Food and Agriculture to further her research on sea-level rise and saltwater intrusion on Maryland’s Eastern Shore. Saltwater intrusion reduces soil quality and crop productivity, and increases pollution of nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus into local waterways around the Chesapeake Bay. The research will be conducted through a variety of field trials and greenhouse experiments that will help determine what crops can survive and are productive in the new saltier environment. The team also includes Dr. Keryn Gedan from George Washington University; Dr. Jerrod Miller of the University of Delaware; and Dr. Rebecca Epanchin-Niell of Resources for the Future. The project’s outreach initiatives will include webinars, the creation of educational materials, and train-the-trainer sessions.

A $1 million grant from the Bank of America Charitable Foundation will support Georgetown University research on women’s economic mobility and workforce social enterprise. The Institute for Women, Peace and Security and the Global Social Enterprise Initiative at the McDonough School of Business will supervise the work. The grant marks the second time the Foundation has partnered with these two Georgetown entities to expand knowledge on workforce issues and women’s economic mobility. Ambassador Melanne Verveer, Executive Director of GIWPS, says the grant will enable the development of major research on how to create economic opportunities for women in fragile states. The study launched at the Bank of America conference on women’s entrepreneurship in Dublin, Ireland, this past fall.

The University of Maryland (UMD) has received a $500,000 grant from the Maryland Governor’s Office of Crime Control & Prevention (GOCCP) to support the development of a new Maryland Crime Research and Innovation Center. UMD will lead the effort and will partner with University System of Maryland (USM) institutions to engage interdisciplinary capabilities, in coordination with resources offered by industry and state partners, to support the establishment of a knowledge and research center to help the state’s crime control and prevention efforts. The initiative will benefit from the state’s collective talent and expertise to conduct interdisciplinary research and to help inform state policies and programs.

Svetlana Roudenko, Associate Professor of Mathematics in George Washington University’s Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, received $319,998 National Science Foundation grant to use mathematical equations in the study of wave phenomena and the properties of light.

Howard University Hospital’s (HUH’s) Dr. Sohail Rana and Dr. Edwin Powell in HUH’s Department of Pediatrics and Child Health and Ezer Kang, Ph.D., from HUH’s Department of Psychology, were awarded a conference grant of $49,669 from the National Institutes of Health, National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities. The award helped to fund the International Conference on Stigma held November 16 on Howard University’s campus. The conference brought together researchers, medical personnel, community activists, students and affected individuals to explore the impact of HIV-related and other health-related stigma and highlight research and community programs to combat stigma. (See more about the conference under Place to Be.)
A team of researchers, including American University bioanalytical neurochemist Alexander G. Zestos, identified a new signaling pathway in the brain that is helping to unlock the biochemical mysteries between smoking and weight gain and loss. The team has identified the pathway, which spurs beige fat cells to burn energy. That the pathway, already known to regulate nicotine dependence in the brain, also plays a role in metabolism raises new questions for researchers to explore. Professor Zestos is part of AU’s Center for Behavioral Neuroscience.

On August 28, researchers at the George Washington Milken Institute School of Public Health (Milken Institute SPH) published an independent report commissioned by the Puerto Rican government that estimated that there were 2,975 excess deaths in Puerto Rico due to Hurricane Maria between September 2017 and February 2018. Milken Institute SPH Dean Lynn R. Goldman and Professor of Global Health Carlos Santos-Burgoa, the lead investigator of the study, held a reporter briefing and conducted media interviews about the report, which received several hundred media mentions. On September 13, President Donald Trump tweeted a negative reaction to the Puerto Rican death toll mentioned in the GW report. In response to the president’s tweets, the Milken Institute SPH issued a statement saying it stands by its study. The Washington Post published an op-ed by Dean Goldman that was posted online and in the print edition defending the research. Dr. Santos-Burgoa conducted multiple media interviews on the same topic.

George Mason University researchers in the university’s Flood Hazards Research Lab (the Lab) worked with the National Weather Service to gauge the potential effects of Hurricane Florence in the Washington, DC area before the storm came ashore. The Lab developed real-time flood guidance every four hours and predicted future flooding for the region for a three and a half-day period.

New research from the University of Maryland Department of Geographical Sciences reveals that more than a quarter of the forests lost around the world in the last 15 years are gone for good. Without significant changes to land management policies and corporate supply chains, the rate of commodity-driven deforestation is not likely to decline in the future. The findings, published in the September 14 issue of Science, shows that 27 percent of global forest loss can be attributed to permanent land use conversions for the production of commodities such as palm oil, mining or energy infrastructure with urbanization as a cause finishing a distant second. The report also found that policies designed to achieve zero-deforestation goals by 2020 will not hit their targets but can lead to better international understanding of the problem.

Shannon McFarlin, Associate Professor of Anthropology in George Washington University’s Columbian College of Arts and Sciences (CAS), is leading a new collaborative study that aims to characterize and understand variability in weaning within and between carefully studied wild populations of African Great Apes. Dr. McFarlin and researchers from Franklin and Marshall College; Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International; Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology working with national parks authorities and nonprofit organizations, are interested in the dietary changes that occur when young apes transition from breastfeeding to a solid, adult-like diet. Researchers will collect data on living individuals to study weaning in modern ape populations and determine how this reflects our understanding of ape weaning in the past.

Amphibian biologists from around the world watched in horror in 2004, as the frogs of El Copé, Panama, began dying by the thousands. The culprit was Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis, a deadly fungus more
commonly known as chytrid fungus. Within months, roughly half of the frog species native to the area went locally extinct. A new study led by University of Maryland researchers suggests that, within a decade, the species remaining in El Copé developed the ability to coexist with chytrid fungus. In a field study spanning the years 2010-2014, the researchers found that frogs infected with the fungus survived at a nearly identical rate compared with uninfected frogs.

An international team of researchers announced the discovery of a new species of dinosaur--Xiyunykus pengi--during an expedition to Xinjiang, China, co-led by James Clark, the Ronald Weintraub Professor of Biology in George Washington University's Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, and Xing Xu of the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology at the Chinese Academy of Sciences. The discovery is the ninth species of dinosaur identified as part of a partnership between GW and the Chinese Academy of Sciences. The findings were published August 23 in Current Biology along with the description of a second new species, Bannykus wulatensis. Xiyunykus and Bannykus are both alvarezsauurs, a mysterious group of dinosaurs that share many characteristics with birds.

A new study published in the Proceedings of the Royal Society B by three Georgetown University researchers including Biology Department PhD candidate Caitlin Karniski, post-doctoral researcher Ewa Krzyszczyk and Professor Janet Mann looked at aging dolphin mothers finding that even though survival of offspring decreases as mothers age, the older mothers invest significantly more time (through nursing) in their final offspring than for their earlier progeny. Karniski says the new findings could be interpreted to imply that some threshold of maternal care is needed in order for an extended lifespan to evolve past the ability to reproduce.

A four-year study by George Mason University’s Department of Rehabilitation Science and led by Professor Andrew Guccione investigated the rehabilitation of patients with incomplete spinal cord injuries, determined rehabilitative progress can be made after 18 months. Generally, it was believed the body stopped changing 18 months after an injury, which is also when traditional health care typically ends and the literature on recovery runs out. Professor Guccione’s research and program combines exercise science and neuroscience research in a way that had not previously been applied to that population. All 15 patients, who were post-rehabilitation, showed improvements in mobility while engaged in the program, indicating, Professor Guccione said, that the body maintains its plasticity to recover for a far longer period of time than had been documented.

American University computer science professor Nathalie Japkowicz and her colleagues used machine learning techniques to design a way to detect unusual activity in a car’s computer system. Such activity could signal a cyberattack, so the findings have implications for cybersecurity. The research was published in a special issue on data mining and cybersecurity in IEEE Intelligent Systems.

George Mason University now has the largest satellite dish in the Washington, DC area that is available to undergraduate students. The 30-foot-tall dish on the Fairfax Campus is being donated and financially supported by a subsidiary of the George Mason University Instructional Foundation and is being used in partnership with CACI, a provider of information services and a longtime corporate partner of Mason’s Volgenau School of Engineering. The dish will be used to receive signals, data, and images from satellites as well as signals from missions to the moon. It also will be a platform for hands-on projects, including senior design projects and student club activities.
Howard University has entered into three partnerships with Google. The first—Google-in-Residence (GIR)—is a program that embeds Google engineers as faculty at Howard and other HBCU’s and has been going strong for more than four years. The second—Howard West—placed Howard student (and now other HBCU students) at Google’s Mountain View campus in Silicon Valley in California. The expansion of the program to more students is the third partnership. The three partnerships are providing important opportunities for Howard students. For Google, the program is giving the company an opportunity to build a diverse company to reflect the people who use its products. (For more on Howard West, see New Initiatives.)

A new study conducted by American University’s School of Public Affairs professor Carla Flink and published in the Journal of Public Administration and Theory finds that as public managers decide how to allocate funds, agency performance is a key consideration. Budgets can rise and fall based on how well an organization is delivering on its promise and whether it continues to deliver over time.

David Broniatowski, Assistant Professor of Engineering Management and Systems Engineering in George Washington University’s School of Engineering and Applied Science (SEAS), led research examining the influence of social media bots and Russian trolls on vaccine discussions on Twitter. Dr. Broniatowski and his team found that the bots and trolls used similar tactics to those used during the 2016 US election to promote discord and spread misinformation. Multiple media outlets reported on the research which was featured on the front page of the Guardian (UK).

Georgetown University’s Lisa Singh, a computer science professor and research professor in the McCourt School of Public Policy’s Massive Data Institute, mines Twitter data around the #MeToo hashtag in collaboration with six other Georgetown professors, developing algorithms to more accurately determine the demographics of people using the hashtag. After reviewing more than 8.1 million tweets, the most prevalent topics of conversation were the MeToo movement and activism; sexual abuse and assault; harassment; and politics. She says that she and her collaborators hope to understand better how people that are involved in social media on these topics are understood by agencies managing these issues.

In the past seven years, the University of Maryland Dining Services (UMD DS) has made a commitment to building exceptional culinary experiences, eliminating food insecurity on campus, and creating noteworthy sustainability impacts. To further support this commitment, UMD DS has joined the Menus of Change University Research Collaborative (MCURC). Maryland joins over 50 universities, and 150 organizations and individuals working to leverage its unique position in university dining to advance positive life-long food choices among students.

George Mason University research has shown that investing in healthy community practices can significantly reduce health care costs. The study by health policy professor Len Nichols expanded on previous studies on how social spending influences health outcomes. Among his findings—preventative programs for the poor and elderly have been shown to lower Medicaid expenditures; and a simple investment in a child’s well-being can save Medicaid expensive hospital costs. The study also shows how a little-known economic model and a 12-step collaboration process among community stakeholders can work to produce better health for all.

Recent Georgetown University alumni, graduate, and undergraduate students worked on projects that provided housing to refugees and immigrants; on-the-go food options; a music app; and more during the university’s eight-week StartupHoyas Summer Launch program. The program, designed for current
Georgetown students and recent graduates who want to launch new business ventures, offers support from Georgetown faculty, mentors and others to experienced entrepreneurs. The program also offers workspace at the McDonough School of Business; membership in the new Georgetown Venture Lab sponsored by the Leonsis Family at the WeWork White House location; a stipend; and invitations to exclusive networking events. A total of 14 participants presented their ventures as part of the effort in July.

A study by George Mason University professor Matthew Rossheim found that federal agencies have underestimated the hazard of vaping. By analyzing data from the Consumer Product Safety Commission, Professor Rossheim found more than 40 times the number of vaping-related injuries reported by the US Food and Drug Administration from 2009-2015, and 15 times the number of injuries reported by the US Fire Administration from 2009 and 2016. The malfunctions are believed caused by batteries overheating to the point of catching fire. Rosheim estimates in his report that 2,035 e-cigarette explosions and burns resulted in visits to US hospital emergency rooms from 2015-2017.

American University School of Public Affairs (SPA) professor Erdal Tekin, recently completed a study that found that states with medical marijuana laws (MML’s) have lower workplace fatalities. Legalizing marijuana was associated with nearly a 20 percent reduction in the expected number of workplace fatalities among workers aged 25 to 44—and the connection in that age group grew stronger over time. Five years after coming into effect, MML’s were associated with a 33.7 percent reduction in the expected number of workplace fatalities. “It’s a pretty sizable effect,” says Professor Tekin.

On September 6, the George Washington University Program on Extremism and the New York Times announced a research partnership that will enable GW to create the virtual public archive of the newspaper’s “ISIS Files” roughly 15,000 pages of internal Islamic State group documents retrieved in Iraq by a team of Times reporters. The Program on Extremism will work with The Times and GW’s Libraries and Academic Innovation Division to archive, digitize and translate the documents, and publish them on an open, searchable website.

American University Washington College of Law’s (AUWCL) International Human Rights Law Clinic has partnered with Centro de los Derechos del Migrante (CDM); the International Labor Recruitment Working Group (ILRWG); the National Domestic Workers Alliance (NDWA); and Matahari Women Worker’s Center on a new report documenting labor abuses faced by au pairs in the United States. The report identifies 18 recommendations that would protect au pairs from labor abuses and ensure they have access to justice including banning recruitment fees; requiring host families to pay the prevailing wage for childcare workers; and transferring oversight of the program from the State Department to the Department of Labor.

Maryland Cybersecurity training startup Cybrary is planning to move its headquarters from Greenbelt to College Park and is looking to hire, according to cofounder Ryan Corey. The three-year company has relocated to the Discovery District, a 150-acre area that seeks to collocate academic researchers with startups and larger businesses around the University of Maryland. The company closed a $3.5 million Series A in September 2017 based on reaching product market fit, and has since started to scale.

The Center for Media and Social Impact at American University collaborated with the International Documentary Association for a historic survey of documentary filmmakers. The survey found that while the industry is making strides in opportunities for women, racial and ethnic minorities, economic hurdles remain a major issue in the field. The project’s director and principal investigator, Caty Borum
Chattoo, who directs the Center, wrote *The State of the Documentary Field: 2-18 Study of Documentary Professionals*, a first-of-its-kind study looking at trends and experiences of documentary filmmakers in the United States. (For more on Professor Chattoo, see Campus Movers and Shakers.)

**ON THE ROAD**

**American University School of Public Affairs** faculty participated in the Presidential Sites Summit, hosted by the White House Historical Association at the end of August. The event focused on philanthropy, education, history, and other topics related to the White House, and came on the heels of the launch of AU’s new undergraduate course on the history of the White House.

**ON THE BOOKSHELF**

**Georgetown University** psychology professor Fathali Moghaddam focuses 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.

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 constitutional framers’ decision to leave voting to the states as a design flaw. “They loved the people, but not all that much. They distrusted the people,” 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.

Peter Loge, Associate Professor of Media and Public Affairs at the **George Washington University Columbian College’s School of Media and Public Affairs**, officially released a new book--*Soccer Thinking for Management Success: Lessons for Organizations from the World’s Game*.

**Georgetown University** English professor Sherry Linkon argues in her new book 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.
**Body of Work**

Four American University School of Public Affairs (SPA) affiliated authors collaborated on an article in *Public Administration Review*, reporting that nursing homes that hire 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. “Nursing homes are a setting where clients’ cultural background really matters,” said Professor Amirkhanyan.

**Georgetown University** Professor Dr. Daniel Lucey, MD, MPH, has been on the frontlines of pandemics and epidemics around the world such as AIDS, SARS, Ebola and Zika. A professor of infectious diseases at Georgetown University Medical Center and a senior scholar at Georgetown’s O’Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law, Lucey long dreamed of an opportunity to educate the public on what causes epidemics and how individuals can help fight them. After exhaustive research and collaboration with other experts, museum staff, and education specialists, Lucey’s vision has been realized with the recent launch of “Outbreak: Epidemics in a Connected World” now on exhibit at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History. The exhibit aims to decrease fear and stigma associated with epidemics, highlight the interconnectedness of human health, animal health, and the environment, and signal the efforts of the global health community to prevent the next outbreak. The exhibit will be on view until 2021.

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, which described the shortcomings of the criminal justice system in a compelling way. “I feel very honored to have been part of it,” says Root.

**Extra Credit**

Professor Erinn Tucker, Faculty Director of the Global Hospitality Leadership Program at Georgetown University School of Continuing Studies, is one of three Washingtonians who organized the inaugural Black Restaurant Week. Tucker collaborated on the effort with AJ Johnson, author of *White Plates, Black Faces*, and Furard Tate, formerly of Inspire Barbeque and, now, Love Market. Running from November 4-11, Black Restaurant Week highlighted black-owned restaurants and black culinary and bar talent in the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia. While modeled off of the traditional concept of “Restaurant Week,” Black Restaurant Week also uniquely incorporated an Education Conference with programming set out to empower up-and-coming talent and prepare marginalized peoples for employment in the service industry.
IN MEMORIAM

National Defense University marked the passing of Senator John McCain on August 25. A United States Senator, heroic naval aviator, decorated POW, and the son and grandson of US Navy admirals, John S. McCain III graduated from the National War College at NDU in 1974. Following his military career, he became one of the most influential US senators of this era. Fortunately, Senator McCain visited NDU’s campus within the last year, joining five other of NDU’s most distinguished alumni in May 2018 as part of NDU’s National Hall of Fame ceremony.

The University of Maryland announced plans to honor the five victims in June’s mass shooting in the Capital Gazette newsroom in Annapolis, Md. UMD’s Philip Merrill College of Journalism renamed an executive seminar room in Knight Hall as an on-campus memorial for UMD alumni John McNamara (’83), and Gerald Fischman (’79), UMD adjunct professor Rob Hiaasen, and their colleagues Rebecca Smith and Wendi Winters. A dedication ceremony, co-hosted with The Diamondback student newspaper, took place in December. Merrill College also created a writing competitions in memory of Fischman and McNamara, as well as a teaching award in memory of Hiaasen.

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With a nearly $4 million grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF), the University of Maryland will lead a first-of-its-kind nationwide pre-college course on engineering principles and design. The pilot program, entitled Engineering For US All (E4USA), will test the effectiveness of a standardized educational curriculum across multiple states. The course is intended to lead to an eventual pathway for high school students to earn college credit.

American University’s School of Education launched a dual enrollment program in partnership with District of Columbia Public Schools. The program offers students a pathway to take college-level education courses at AU during their senior year in high school and aims to supply DC with a pipeline of diverse teachers.

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 some post-secondary studies resulting in associate degrees or certificates. 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 for them. 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.

CAMPUS SUPPORT

The Alfred Street Baptist Church in Alexandria, Virginia, has decided to donate enough money to Howard University to clear the debt for 34 low-income, full-time enrolled students with a GPA of 2.0 or more.
The congregants raised the money by engaging in a 30-day “fast” involving limited food, reduced social media consumption and restricted purchasing of unnecessary goods and services and then donating the money saved to the church for a charitable purpose. Reverend Marc Lavarin suggested the donation to Howard University in honor of Black History Month and reflecting the congregation’s profile where about 60 percent of the church attended an HBCU. All in all, the effort raised about $100,000.

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 of policy and politics 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. AU President Sylvia Burwell and then-Senator Jeff Flake (R-AZ) participated in the Institute 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 as they train for public sector careers. Through the Blume Institute, students exhibiting exceptional promise as future public leaders will be able to focus on experiential legal studies 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.”

On September 6, American University announced that Board of Trustees member Gary Abramson, (SPA/BA ’68) and his wife Pennie Abramson, have 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 the current trustee and Chairman Emeritus of the AU 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 University of Maryland Philip Merrill College of Journalism will receive $3 million over three years from the Scripps Howard Foundation to establish a Howard Center for Investigative Journalism. In a move to advance high-quality enterprise journalism across the country, this will be one of two centers created from the full $6 million dollar investment, with the second at Arizona State University. The Howard Centers will be multidisciplinary, graduate-level programs focused on training the next generation of reporters through hands-on investigative journalism projects. Students will work with news organizations from across the country to report stories of national or international importance to the public.

The University of Maryland has received a $1.75 million estate gift from alumna Jean E. Lokerson (Ph.D. ’70) to support student scholarships in the College of Education. The John T. and Dorothy E. Lokerson Endowed Scholarship in Education—named in honor of Lokerson’s parents who encouraged her
to pursue a career in education—provides merit and need-based student scholarships toward tuition and fees that are equivalent to two years of full-time upper-level undergraduate or graduate study.

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.

Robert Sowell, a 1986 George Mason University graduate in communications, has pledged $25,000 to create the Robert Sowell and Ricky Dillard Endowed Scholarship to support first-generation college student-athletes at Mason. Sowell played baseball at Mason, and Dillard, who played basketball, were roommates and friends at the university. Dillard died from stomach cancer in May 2001 at the age of 39.

Students and faculty at the University of Maryland’s Robert H. Smith School of Business will benefit from a new $1 million gift from longtime benefactor Allen J. Krowe (’54). Krowe’s funding will be used to expand the Office of Transformational Learning to support excellence in teaching and learning. The gift supports Fearless Ideas: The Campaign for Maryland, UMD’s $1.5 billion fundraising campaign focused on elevating and expanding the university’s mission of service, enhancing academic distinction and bolstering UMD’s leading-edge research enterprise.

George Mason University has launched its own exclusive wine label to fund school-sponsored student scholarships. In partnership with Hopland, California-based Siema Wines, the university has developed Geo. Mason Wine—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 at 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 has been sold meaning roughly $4,000 to $5,000 was raised in the label’s first two months.

Campus Movers and Shakers

*The University of the District of Columbia has made several key hires including:

- The appointment of Avis Marie Russell as the university’s new Acting General Counsel. Ms. Russell has nearly 40 years of legal experience in both the public and private sectors, previously working in senior positions with the City of New Orleans, the DC Water and Sewer Authority, and the Parsons Corporation;

- The appointment of Patrick Gusman as the university’s new Executive Director for Strategic Initiatives in the Office of the President. Mr. Gusman, a Georgetown Law graduate, will manage the new Executive Services Unit and coordinate and manage strategic initiatives arising from UDC’s Equity Imperative work;
• The appointment of Dr. Rebecca Graham as the university’s Director of Institutional Assessment and Outcomes. Dr. Graham previously served the university as an Instructional Consultant with the UDC Center for the Advancement of Learning. Dr. Graham previously worked at the Association of American Colleges and Universities and has previously taught college courses on gender and sexuality;

• The appointment of Dr. Lawrence T. Potter, Jr. as the new Chief Academic Officer. 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;

• The appointment of Dr. Victor R. McCrary, a graduate of two Consortium member institutions including Catholic University of America (BA in chemistry) and Howard University (PhD in chemistry), as the new Vice President for Research, Graduate Studies and Sponsored Programs. In this role, Dr. McCrary will be responsible for the growth, direction, and oversight of the university’s research enterprise. He previously worked at Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory, Morgan State University and the University of Tennessee; and

• The appointment of Renée McDonald Hutchins as the new dean of the UDC David A. Clarke School of Law. Dean Hutchinson is a nationally-renowned clinical law professor from the University of Maryland (this year serving as a visiting professor in the clinical program at George Washington University), an appellate lawyer, criminal justice scholar, and activist for change. She will continue the mission of the law school to promote access to the legal profession and support the legal services community in service of residents of the District of Columbia.

George Mason University’s Board of Visitors has announced four new members and one re-elected member:

• Thomas Davis was re-elected as Rector. Davis, a former seven-time US House of Representatives from Northern Virginia, has led the university’s 16-member governing body since 2014; and

• Newly named members include:
  o Ignacio Moreno, Chief Executive Officer and Founding Principal of the iMoreno Group, PLC;
  o Paul Reagan, Senior Vice President and Director of Federal Public Affairs at McGuire Woods Consulting;
  o Edward Rice, a member of the Advisory Board of Mason’s School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution as well as the Board of Directors of WETA, the Greater Washington Educational Telecommunications Association; and
  o Denise Turner Roth, the Chief Development Officer of WSP USA.

Mark Diaz became George Washington University’s Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer on August 1, after serving 18 years as a budget and planning leader at the University of Miami.

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.
David B. Green, currently Associate Vice President of Financial Operations at George Washington University, 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.

Ann Ardis is George Mason University’s new Dean of its College of Humanities and Social Sciences. She came from the University of Delaware, where she was Senior Vice President for Graduate and Professional Education. A proponent of multi-disciplinary, project-based learning, which can integrate graduate and undergraduate education, Ardis believes it is a dean’s role to broadcast the career skills that humanities and social science graduates bring to the table.

Jordan West, the new Director for Diversity and Inclusion Education at George Washington University, joined the university in August. Ms. West is a formally trained social justice educator and has been part of national opportunities to facilitate discussions on diversity, inclusion and equity.

Ben Platt, George Mason University Associate Professor and Chair of Mason’s History and Art History Department, has been named a Mason Presidential Fellow for the 2018-19 academic year. Platt will assist Mason President Ángel Cabrera on projects related to faculty engagement. His top priority, he said, is to facilitate communication between the faculty and the administrative sides of the university, so that faculty get the sense that the university understands and values what they do.

The George Washington University Columbian College’s School of Media and Public Affairs (SMPA) announced its 2018-19 fellows and additional faculty appointments including:

- The Terker Distinguished Fellows who are:
  - Olivier Knox, White House Correspondents’ Association President and Chief Washington Correspondent for Sirius XM; and
  - Shawn Turner, former Deputy White House Press Secretary for National Security. Mr. Knox and Mr. Turner will join SMPA classroom sessions, student lunches, and primetime events, among other university events and engagements;
- Longtime NBC News television director James Blount who will serve as the inaugural SPMA Journalist-in-Residence and will return as a Shapiro Fellow; and
- Veteran Foreign Service officer Karl Stoltz who will join the Institute for Public Diplomacy and Global Communication, a joint project of SMPA and the Elliott School of International Affairs, as the State Department Public Diplomacy Fellow.

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. 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.”
George Mason University named current Interim Director for University Events Rachel Quinn as its new permanent director.

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 few centers of its kind in the world where students learn from start to finish how to make environmental and wildlife films, digital shorts, Ar/VR, game design, and other emerging media platforms.

Georgetown University has enrolled some high profile students this year including:

- The School of Foreign Service 2018 Centennial Fellows for Academic Year 2018-19 which include General Wesley K. Clark (ret.), former Supreme Allied Commander of NATO; Jeffrey DeLaurentis (SFS ’76), former US Chargé d’Affaires to Cuba; and bestselling author Azar Nafisicame for a one-or-two-semester residency; and
- The McCourt School of Public Policy’s Institute of Politics and Public Service GU Politics Fellows which included a political journalist, strategist, pollster, a White House staffer and a former defense undersecretary.

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 Asphait: Religion, Hip-Hop, and Street Basketball, has been optioned for a TV series by Moonlight actor André Holland. He will focus his scholarship on marginalized communities’ use of religion and spirituality as a mode of survival and a way to reclaim their humanity and he expressed excitement about engaging such communities at AU;
  - Amelia Tseng, an Assistant Professor in the World Languages and Cultures Department, 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. Through her research appointment at the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, she focused on why DC Latino immigrants’ language sounded so similar to local African-American dialects. At AU, she hopes to focus on this diversity as both a DC resident and a scholar;
  - Chun-His Huang has been named a Professor of Computer Science. She will work on such subjects as extreme-scale computing and data analytics;
  - Laurie Bayet has been named an Assistant Professor of Psychology. She will focus on cognitive neuroscience methods, child development, and developmental psychology;
  - David Gerard has been named an Assistant Professor of Mathematics and Statistics;
  - Alex Goodwin has been named an Assistant Professor of Computer Science;
  - Mark Nelson has been named an Assistant Professor of Computer Science; and
Kareem Rabie has been named an Assistant Professor of Anthropology. He 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 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 has been named an Assistant Professor of Government. He will specialize in areas such as congressional elections and institutions;
  - Janice Iwama has been named an Assistant Professor of Justice, Law and Criminology. Her teaching and research will focus on bias/hate crimes and policing;
  - Lallen Johnson has been named an Assistant Professor of Justice, Law and Criminology. She will focus on such issues as race and justice, communities and crime, and urban crime patterns; and
  - David Malet, has been named an Assistant Professor of Justice, Law and Criminology. He will research in the areas of homeland security, bioterrorism, and political violence;

- In the School of International Service (SIS):
  - Jesse Ribot has spent decades probing what it means to be an “environmentalist.” He 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 AU where he hopes to both teach and mentor students; and
  - Dotain Haim has been named an Assistant Professor;

- In the Kogod School of Business (Kogod):
  - Heng Xu is a new Professor of Information Technology and Analytics and the newly-named 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 that 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 has been named a Professor of Information Technology and Analytics;
  - Asad Kausar, has been named an Associate Professor of Accounting and Taxation;
  - Ali Sanati, has been named an Assistant Professor of Finance and Real Estate. He will specialize in areas such as empirical corporate finance and corporate investment; and
  - Mikhail Wolfson has been named an Assistant Professor of Management. He will focus on issues such as team composition and informal learning;

- In the School of Communication (SOC):
  - Assistant Professor Saif Shahin will continue his focus on social networking sites and their impact. He’s particularly focused on 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 US. 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, has been named an Assistant Professor on Tenure Track. (For more on Professor Chattoo, see Research and Tech); and
• Krzysztof Pietroszek has been named an Assistant Professor who will focus on virtual and augmented reality;
  • In the School of Education, Robert Shand has been named an Assistant Professor of Education. He will focus on teacher labor markets and educational opportunities for disadvantaged students; and
  • In the Washington College of Law, Hilary Allen has joined as an Associate Professor. She will focus on securities regulation, corporate finance and banking law.

There have been changes in George Mason University’s Athletic Department:
  • A five-year contract extension for Brad Edwards, who has been Mason’s Athletic Director since July 2014. Over his tenure, he has guided the Department to significant achievements, including record-high revenues in sponsorships and fundraising. Edwards has secured more than $20 million in revenue commitments, highlighted by a naming-rights partnership with EagleBank; a multi-year partnership with Adidas; and a long-term corporate sponsorship agreement with Learfield; and
  • The hiring of Zack Bolno as Deputy Athletic Director of External Operations. Bolno will serve on Edward’s senior management team and will specifically oversee the direction and implementation of the following areas--marketing and promotions; branding; communications; community relations and engagement; special events; developing and fundraising for major gifts; and the Patriot Club. Bolno comes to Mason from the University of Maryland for which he worked from 2012 to 2018.

Several Consortium-member faculty members have been appointed to prestigious national organizations or received prestigious appointments including:
  • George Mason University professor Faye Taxman who was named an American Society of Criminology (ASC) Fellow. Taxman is founder and Director of Mason’s Center for Advancing Correctional Excellence; and
  • George Washington University Columbian College’s School of Media and Public Affairs Associate Professor of Journalism Cheryl W. Thompson who was elected President of Investigative Reporters & Editors during the organization’s annual convention in June. Thompson made history as the first African-American Board President after joining the Board in 2015 and becoming vice president in 2017. An Emmy-Award winning investigative reporter who writes for the Washington Post, Thompson presides over the global organization that provides members access to reporting tip sheets and hosts conferences and specialized training sessions throughout the United States.

George Mason University Vice President Jennifer (J.J.) Wagner Davis has spent the last five years as Mason’s Senior Vice President for Administration and Finance. She is leaving to become the University of Virginia’s Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer.

**BIG MEN (AND WOMEN) ON CAMPUS**
The **National Defense University** hosted the President’s Lecture Series during the fall semester that featured some high profile speakers including:

- Then-Secretary of Defense General James Mattis on August 22;
- General Raymond Thomas, Commander, US Special Operations Command, on August 29;
- General Joseph Dunford, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, on September 21;
- Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch on October 24;
- Admiral Michelle Howard (USN, ret) on November 5;
- Amy Zalman, CEO Strategic Narrative Institute and Adjunct Faculty lecturer at **Georgetown University** on November 7;
- Various speakers as part of the World War II Legacy Speaker Series on November 14; and
- Ambassadors Deborah McCarthy, Ryan Crocker, and Dawn Liberi, as well as Generals Lloyd Austin (USA, ret.) Ray Odierno (USA ret.) and William “Kip” Ward (USA ret.) speaking as part of the American Academy of Diplomacy featuring on November 28.

**George Washington University** and local book store Politics and Prose cohosted three events on campus including:

- A September 7 event in Betts Theatre featuring civil rights leader and host of “Pod Save the People” DeRay McKesson discussing his book *On the Other Side of Freedom*, a meditation on resistance and an intimate portrait of the Black Lives Matter Movement;
- A September 14 event in Lisner Auditorium featuring chef José Andrés discussing his new book, *We Fed an Island*, which describes his experiences in Puerto Rico in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria and details the community of activists feeding the island to this day; and
- A September 27 event in Lisner Auditorium featuring Bob Woodward, one of the most notable investigative journalists in the country, discussing his latest book, *Fear: Trump in the White House*.

Secretary of Homeland Security Kirstjen Nielsen spoke at an event hosted by the **George Washington University Center for Cyber and Homeland Security (CCHS)** at the Jack Morton Auditorium on September 5. Ms. Nielsen, a former senior fellow at CCHS, reflected on how the Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) mission has changed since 9/11, and laid out how DHS is evolving to address emerging threats to the Homeland. After Secretary Nielsen’s opening remarks, she engaged in a conversation moderated by CCHS Director Frank J. Cilluffo.

**Georgetown University** alumnus and four-time Oscar nominee Bradley Cooper (C’97) says that the same perseverance that got him accepted to **Georgetown** helped him make his directorial debut. Cooper and Blair Rich (C’97) talked about work on *A Star Is Born* and their time at the university in remarks at the university.

On September 12, **George Washington University Law School** and the National Asian American Bar Association cohosted a discussion on diversity in the legal profession with US Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. California Supreme Court Justice Goodwin Liu moderated the discussion in Lisner Auditorium. The event was followed by a VIP reception on campus and a smaller private dinner off campus.

On September 18, the **George Washington University National Churchill Library and Center** at Gelman Library hosted David Rubenstein, Co-Executive Chairman of the Carlyle Group. Mr. Rubenstein
discussed his career in finance and politics and his philanthropic support for historical sites, monuments and museums.

The National Defense University hosted the Commandant’s Lecture Series during the fall semester including high profile speakers such as:

- Jeh Johnson, former Secretary of Homeland Security, who addressed the National War College on September 19; and
- Brigadier General Chad T. Manske, USAF, NWC Commandant, Former 436 the Airlift Wing Vice Commander, Dover Air Force Base, on October 31 presenting a lecture entitled “Lessons in Dealing with a Crisis: April 2006 C-5 Galaxy Crash.”

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 administrators 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 has subsequently been nominated to fill Judge Brett Kavanagh’s vacant seat on the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia.)

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.

George Mason University Visiting Professor Michael Hayden, former Director of the CIA and NSA and head of Mason’s Michael V. Hayden Center for Intelligence, Policy and International Security, moderated a panel on national security that also included former NSA Director Mike Rogers; former Director of National Intelligence James Clapper; and former Deputy Director of the CIA Counterterrorism Center Philip Mudd. The program reflects Mason’s unique access to distinguished leaders on the political scene. Since this event, General Hayden has had a stroke and is in the hospital. All at Mason wish him a speedy recovery.

On October 23, National Defense University hosted Vice President Mike Pence and the National Space Council at the National War College. The meeting of the Council was titled “Moon, Mars and Worlds Beyond: Winning the Next Frontier.” The Council approved six recommendations to the president with respect to reorganizing national security capabilities in space, including standing up the US Space Force as a separate military department.
George Mason University Professor Steven Pearlstein, who is also a Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist for the Washington Post, put together a star-studded speaker series of people immersed in contemporary politics. Called the First Tuesday Speaker Series—because it leads up to the elections on the First Tuesday in November—speakers include former Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe; former Virginia Secretary of Education Anne Holton; former Jeb Bush Campaign Manager Danny Diaz; and former Hillary Clinton Campaign Manager Robby Mook. “When you actually see a human being talk, it humanizes [political experts] in a way that makes you less cynical,” Pearlstein said.

SPOTLIGHT: STUDENTS

Several member university students are doing ground-breaking research including:

- At George Mason University PhD student Ismail Nooraddini, a graduate research assistant in Mason’s Institute for Immigration Research, did a study that showed the positive impact of immigrants to the United States from travel ban countries. The research was important to Nooraddini, whose father came to the United States from Iran almost 40 years ago to attend college. “All of a sudden, someone was calling into question all of my father’s hard work,” Nooraddini said of the ban. The research showed how immigrants from the travel ban countries in many cases outperformed native-born US citizens when it comes to median household incomes and education;

- At Georgetown University:
  - biochemistry and biophysics Ph.D. candidate Jenny England (G’18) is first author on a new paper in the prestigious Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, co-authored with three other doctoral candidates, an undergraduate and chemistry professor Rodrigo Maillard;
  - chemistry doctoral candidate Orlando Stewart (G’22) conducts research that could one day enhance TV’s, cell phones and solar cells, hopes to teach the next generation of scientists;
  - 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, that began on October 1. Her research will focus 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; and
  - Four Ph.D. candidates in psychology, biology, and tumor biology received awards from the National Science Foundation for potential contribution to scientific innovations.

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

- George Mason University doctoral candidate Carol Dniel, who received an American Fellowship from the American Association of University Women (AAUW), recognizing women studying full time or completing doctoral research. In addition, Mason’s Janet Marroquin received a Career Development Grant from the same organization which is 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;
• Georgetown University’s Emilio Joubert (C’19), who speaks four languages and 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); and

• Also at Georgetown, PhD candidates Rob Cortes (C’18, G’22); Jewel Lipps (G’21); Shawn Rhoads (G’21); and Shannon White (G’20) received a prestigious National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowships which provides a yearly stipend of $34,000 and a $12,000 cost-of-living allowance over the next three years. Three students will work on the following projects:
  o Rob Cortes, who received his bachelor’s degree in psychology from Georgetown in May 2018, is conducting research on cognitive abilities. Also a recipient of the distinguished Patrick Healy Graduate Fellowship awarded to outstanding graduate students each year who enter Georgetown from diverse backgrounds, he will continue to contribute to Professor Adam Green’s Lab for Relational Cognition;
  o Jewel Lipps who is pursuing a PhD in biology specializing in the ecological impact of human action and the creation of sustainable environmental policies;
  o Shawn Rhodes who will be conducting research in the Laboratory on Social and Active Neuroscience, directed by Professor Abigail Marsh; and
  o Shannon White, who is working in Georgetown’s tumor biology program, gravitating toward this research area after a loved one was diagnosed with the disease. White will be working in Professor Chunling Yi’s lab; and

Three additional Georgetown PhD students received honorable mentions from the NSF, including Richard Dakar (G’20) of the psychology department; Shiva Hassanzadeh-Behbahani (G’21) of the neuroscience department; and Zachary Park (G’21) of the biology department.

Valentino Dixon, a man imprisoned for 27 years, was released on September 19 in New York, in part thanks to Georgetown University students who worked diligently in the spring of 2018 semester to challenge his wrongful murder conviction and advocate for his freedom. Three undergraduate students in Professor Marc Howard’s spring 2018 “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 on Professor Howard see Campus and Community.)

Georgetown University’s Hana Burkly (NHS’19; G’20), who administers a student-run, not-for-profit organization that recruits university students to teach English in underserved schools around the world, is also a boxer. Her non-profit, Learning Enterprises, has worked with more than 20 United States and European universities; sent volunteers to 12 countries on four continents; and averages 150 volunteers per year. As a boxer, she won the 2018 USIBA national title.

Marymount University held an opening reception for its upcoming exhibition “In a Minute,” on December 7 featuring the Senior Thesis Exhibition works from Grant Gallas, Emma Grzymkowski, and Jamie McDonnell. The exhibition is a visualization of the potential that lives within each minute. Gallas’ work is focused on his Japanese roots. Grzymkowski’s work uses large-scale, non-objective paintings and
small-scale, hyper-realistic drawings to create a place in which viewers can escape from daily mundanity. McDonnell’s prints focus on finding relief from anxiety using the human form and repeating the same image a number of times using different process methods. The reception took place in the Reinsch Library on Marymount’s main campus.

On November 6, the Washington Post published an op-ed by Georgetown University senior Amanda Scott (C’18) that argued “We have a right to counsel in criminal cases. Why not evictions?” The piece urged Congress and state lawmakers to address the injustices of eviction proceedings by passing legislation that ensures all families have representation for their day in court. For Scott, the issue is personal. As a young girl, she was evicted from her home in Alabama. Scott’s piece describes the growing movement to guarantee a right to counsel for low-income Americans in certain civil cases such as evictions and she highlights cities such as New York, Newark, and San Francisco that have moved to close this gap in the justice system. The op-ed appeared just days before the DC Council voted to amend the “Eviction With Dignity Act” extending the pre-eviction notice period for tenants from 14 to 21 days.

**Campus Life**

In October, Starbucks opened the nation’s first American Sign Language (ASL) store on H Street, NE blocks away from Gallaudet University. The store mirrors the first Starbucks signing store, which opened in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in 2016. Customers from the outside can spot “Starbucks” written out in fingerspelling beneath the main logo and on large sidewalk umbrellas. The store has also been laid out and decorated to celebrate deaf culture. Approximately half of the store staff when it opened were Gallaudet students, alumni or staff.

Efforts are underway at American University to make the campus more accessible. After an Undergraduate Senate bill cited nine locations for accessibility improvement and brought them to the attention of administrators, the facilities department made necessary improvements and modifications to the sites. Projects on the list included several elevators, power-assisted doors, accessible seating areas, and sidewalk ramps, among other improvements.

The University of Maryland (UMD) has announced that the campus will commemorate the 2018-19 academic year as the “Year of Immigration.” Driven by the support of faculty, staff and students across UMD’s schools and colleges, the Year of Immigration will support the university's mission to cultivate global citizenry by transforming dialogue into impact on urgent issues related to immigration, global migration and refugees.

American University hosted two information sessions by the National Immigration Forum’s New American Workforce on October 15. The sessions included immigration specialists who helped AU faculty, staff and contract employees learn more about citizenship eligibility and how to apply for citizenship.

The Hoya Hub, an on-campus pantry offering free, non-perishable food items to members of the Georgetown University community, opened in October on campus as part of Georgetown’s Student Association Initiative to combat food insecurity. The project is seeking to address students’ concerns over food inaccessibility on campus, which was raised by a 2016 GUSA survey. The food pantry launch is an
ongoing collaboration between student organizations, project advisors, and administrators. Its next steps are to raise awareness and support for the project.

**Veterans Affairs**

Several Consortium member students with ties to the US Military have been named Pat Tillman Scholars—an award established to honor the memory of former NFL player who was killed in Afghanistan in 2004 while serving with the US Army Rangers. They are among 60 recipients nationwide who received awards of $10,000 to be used for tuition, fees and living expenses. They include:

- **George Mason University** graduate students Ali Nayyef and Melissa Swensen. Nayyef, who served as an interpreter alongside US military forces in Iraq, is pursuing a master’s degree in political science. Swensen, who is married to an Air Force major, is working on a doctor of nursing practice degree; and

- **Georgetown University** law student Jennifer Esparza (L’20), who joined the United States Marine Corps after high school. Her decision was based on her desire to learn and grow and to serve her country. Later, while an undergraduate at the University of Oregon, she began to call attention to the issue of sexual harassment in the military. Her work on this issue, amplified at Georgetown, led to her selection by the Pat Tillman Foundation as a 2018 Tillman Scholar.

**Campus Competitions**

In November, Georgetown Entrepreneurship hosted its second annual Leonsis Family Entrepreneurship Prize, the “Bark Tank” Pitch Competition where eight university students and alumni pitched their business ventures for a chance to win a share of $100,000 in cash prizes. Current undergraduate and graduate students and alumni within six months of graduation were eligible to compete and included eight finalists. Shavini Fernando took home the Grand Prize and People’s Choice for O2Wear, an ear-wearable, vital monitoring and emergency alert device that warns people when their vitals are out of normal range and contacts 911 to receive help. Fernando won a total of $35,000. Ramya Possett with BlueFoot took the $20,000 first runner-up prize and Zach Oschin with Elenas took the $15,000 second runner-up prize.

**Campus and Community**

During the federal government shutdown, American University gathered federal workers on campus to offer them a place to commiserate over their experience. Five hundred fifty workers attended a free day of networking and skills training sessions at AU in mid-January. At least some of the workers said they attended to break up the monotony of sitting at home. AU professors and researchers volunteered to teach classes during the day including Molly O’Rourke, who taught a class on political polling. The assembled workers discussed the camaraderie of being in the “same boat” and marveled at the resilience of the federal workforce.

Late in October, Georgetown University Law and the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) celebrated the successful inaugural graduation for the students enrolled in the Police for Tomorrow Fellowship Program. The graduation ceremony, held on Georgetown Law School’s campus,
recognized the 18 recently hired police officers and MPD staff who completed a curriculum of in-depth workshops, community engagement activities, and a capstone project—all designed to provide participants with a deep understanding of the DC community they serve and preparing them to become leaders in innovative policing. DC’s MPD has found the Fellowship, born out of the Law Center’s Program on Innovative Policing, so valuable that it is incorporating the curriculum into its police academy, giving all new recruits—not just officers and staff selected for the Fellowship Program—a chance to learn about systematic issues that will affect their work. New cohorts of the Fellowship Program will begin every six months.

**American University Washington College of Law (AUWCL) and the American University School of Education** have partnered to participate in the District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) Adopt-a-School Program. The site selected for the partnership is Truesdell Education Campus.

In November, **Georgetown University** launched a new education program aimed at transforming the lives of a select group of DC residents released from local correctional facilities with demonstrated potential to become successful entrepreneurs and leaders in their communities. Through a combination of education and on the job work experience with local employers, the university’s new Pivot Program aims to prepare participants for positions as both entrepreneurial leaders and productive employees. For the duration of the year-long program, Pivot Program Fellows will receive a weekly internship stipend from the DC Department of Employment Services (DOES), providing a strong incentive to complete the program. “The principal goal of the Pivot Program is employment readiness,” said Marc M. Howard, Director of **Georgetown’s Prisons and justice Initiative.** “This program is designed to prepare participants for a range of outcomes like sustainable employment, owning and operating their own businesses, and/or continuing their education,” Director Howard added. (For more on Professor Howard, see Spotlight: Students).

In September, a collaboration comprised of the Greater Washington Partnership; Greater Washington Board of Trade; the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce; the Northern Virginia Tech Council; the Prince Georges Chamber of Commerce; the VA CIT; the MD TEDCO; and the **University of Maryland Smith School of Business** launched the Tandem Product Academy, a free educational support program for start-ups looking to offer products or switch users from services to products. The initial cohort of 25 companies began the program in October.

**The Place to Be**

On August 29, the **George Washington University Graduate School of Political Management (GSPM); Republican Women for Progress; EMILY’s List; Running Start; PLEN and IGNITE cohosted a panel discussion, “Women in Politics: Progressing Beyond the Primaries.” GSPM Director Lara Brown moderated the discussion.**

Thanks to **American University**’s leadership in recent years on combating dating and sexual violence, It’s On Us selected **AU** to host its first-ever regional adviser summit. It’s On Us, a national movement to end sexual assault, was launched in 2014 following recommendations from the White House Task Force to Prevent Sexual Assault.
On September 17, Georgetown Law hosted its annual Supreme Court Institute press review featuring Supreme Court Institute Executive Director Irv Gornstein; former Solicitor General and Georgetown Law Distinguished Lecturer Paul D. Clement (F’88) of Kirkland and Ellis; Nicole A. Saharsky of Gibson, Dunn and Crutcher; Georgetown Law Professor Martin S. Lederman; former Solicitor General Donald B. Verrilli, Jr., of Munger, Tolles & Olson; and Kannon K. Shanmugam of Williams & Connolly. Several speakers predicted the Term would be the “calm before the storm.” “We’re headed for a whole new world, and the only question, I think, is how far we are going to go and how fast we are going to get there,” said Professor Gornstein.

American University Washington College of Law (AUWCL) and the national law firm of Nixon Peabody LLP partnered to host a dynamic bicoastal program and panel discussion on September 18 recognizing the significant achievements of the 1993 March on Washington that demanded equality and liberation for LGBTQ Americans.

Anthony Stefanidis, Director of George Mason University’s Investigations and Network Analysis Center, the only university research program dedicated to fighting networked criminal activities in both the physical and cyber spaces, led a briefing of congressional staffers. “We wanted to communicate the tremendous benefits the government gets through its collaboration with the designated Centers of Excellence,” Stefanidis said. Then-U.S. Representative Barbara Comstock (R-VA) helped arrange the briefing.

This fall, the National Defense University (NDU) College of Information and Cyberspace (CIC) hosted the 5th annual Cyber Beacon Conference at its Fort McNair campus. The gathering of leaders and experts from across the wider national security community dug into highly relevant discussions about America’s challenges concerning information and cyberspace. The event theme was “Decision-Making in Cyberspace” and guided each presentation and audience interaction. Speakers included NDU President Vice Admiral Roegge; General Nakasone, Commander of US Cyber Command; and Admiral Studeman, former Deputy Director of the CIA and Director of the NSA; and Admiral Dermanelian, Commander of US Coast Guard Cyber Command. Other topics discussed during the conference included the use of electronic games to be used in training; the stress between information and disinformation; and cyber graduate education.

The George Washington University School of Engineering and Applied Sciences (SEAS) hosted the event “Live from the International Space Station: Q & A with NASA Astronaut & SEAS Alumna Serena Auñón-Chancellor” on September 18 in Jack Morton Auditorium. The event included a 20-minute NASA downlink from the International Space Station (ISS), during which attendees posed questions to astronaut Serena Auñón-Chancellor, (SEAS ’97). Immediately after the downlink, former NASA astronaut Charles Camarda (SEAS ’80), discussed the challenges of deep space exploration during a question-and-answer session.

American University’s School of Public Affairs (SPA) hosted a forum on Capitol Hill on September 25 to discuss the theory behind the separation of powers between the branches of US government and how that concept has played out in American history. AU’s Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies in partnership with the US Capitol Historical Society and the US Visitors Center teamed up to host the event which included three panels and a dozen speakers that addressed the rationale behind the principal of separation of powers, how the interpretation of the principle has changed over time, and what its likely role will be in the future.
Privacy and cybersecurity leaders from across the nation assembled at **American University** on September 26 for the Cybersecurity and Privacy: Bridging Research and Practice forum. The forum brought together government officials, academics and practitioners to discuss key privacy issues.

**American University** also hosted the second biennial Trans Philosophy Conference on October 5 and 6. The forum title, “Thinking Trans//Trans Thinking,” reflected its focus—the continuing exploration of Trans philosophy—philosophical work that is accountable to and illuminative of transgender experiences, histories, cultural production, and politics. The conference also hopes to assist in the definition of Trans philosophy’s place within the field of transgender studies.

Early in October, **Georgetown University’s Prison and Justice Initiative** and **Department of Anthropology** co-sponsored “The Crisis Facing Immigrant Children and Youth in the United States,” an event organized to spotlight increasingly restrictive immigration policies and their hugely consequential effects on the lives of young immigrants. The event was organized in coordination with the publication of **Illegal Encounters: The Effect of Detention and Deportation on Young People**, co-edited by Deborah Boehm and **Georgetown’s** Professor of Anthropology Susan Terrio, both of whom where panelists. Other panelists included Abel Nunez, Executive Director of the Central American Resource Center; Rachel Gittinger, Director of Citizenship and Civic Engagement at the Central American Resource Center; Arelis Palacio, Associate Director for Undocumented Student Services, **Center for Multicultural Equity and Access** at **Georgetown University**; Jennifer Podkul, Policy Director at KIND-Kids in Need of Defense; William Guévara Martinez, an immigrant from El Salvador and an engineering student; as well as Professor Boehm, Professor of Anthropology and Women’s Studies/Gender, Race and Identity at the University of Nevada, Reno; and Professor Susan J. Terrio, Professor Emerita of Anthropology and French Studies at **Georgetown**.

**George Washington University** hosted the ScienceWriters 2018 Conference on the Foggy Bottom campus October 12-16. ScienceWriters is the annual conference of the nation’s top science journalists, writers and editors. Approximately 800 attendees were on campus to interact with researchers and scientific thought leaders including dozens of GW’s faculty members.

**American University Washington College of Law’s (AUWCL) Health Law and Policy Program** and **the Food and Drug Law Institute (FDLI)** teamed up to host “FDA: Past, Present and Future” on October 19. The FDA conference brought together leading scholars, practitioners, and policymakers from across the nation to discuss the past, present and future of the Food and Drug Administration.

**George Washington University** hosted a unified Colonials Weekend on October 26-28, welcoming alumni, families, students and friends to campus for academic experiences, information sessions, student performances and class reunions. Highlights of the three-day celebration included Colonial Madness—the practice that officially kicks off the basketball season—the Sunday Political Discourse and the Deans’ Receptions.

In honor of **Prince George’s Community College** 60th Anniversary, the **College** hosted a Partners 4 Success Gala on October 19 at the Gaylord National Resort. **Prince George’s Community College (PGCC)** started in 1958 at Suitland High School with 185 students and 14 part-time faculty. PGCC now serves nearly 40,000 students annually; has 250 full-time faculty; 800 adjunct faculty; a main campus in Largo; offers five degrees and extension centers and more than 100 associate degree; workforce
development, and continuing education offerings. The Gala also celebrated the College’s partnerships that have been vital to the College’s growth including a partnership with Prince George’s County Public Schools, MGM National Harbor and Southern Management Corporation. (For more on the 60th anniversary celebrations, see Spotlight: Presidents)

Also at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center, the Howard University College of Medicine hosted its 150th Anniversary Gala to celebrate 150 Years of Excellence in Education, Service and Research. On November 9, 1868, the Howard University College of Medicine opened its red-framed wooden doors on Georgia Avenue to eight students and five faculty members. Since its founding, the College of Medicine has educated more than 8,000 physicians of all ethnicities and creeds. Today, enrollment consists of 465 students. Howard University is America’s No. 1 institution for producing Black applicants to US medical schools.

On November 16, Howard University hosted the International Conference on Stigma. The conference speakers included Michael Weinstein of the AIDS Healthcare Foundation (the keynote); Phill Wilson of the Black AIDS Institute of Los Angeles; and Howard University professor Dr. Ezer Kang as moderator. The conference was coordinated (as it is every year) with the Howard University College of Medicine and Howard University Hospital. (For more on the conference, see Sponsored Research.)

**ARTS AND CULTURE**

National Defense University hosted a preview of the documentary film *Black Hawk Down: The Untold Story* on October 17 which was followed by a panel discussion with several former Army personnel from the 10th Mountain Division, 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment (2-14) and a Delta Force operator who served on the ground during the event. The documentary was produced by Col. Randy Larsen (USAF, ret.), who served as Chairman of the Department of Military Strategy and Operations at the National War College in 2000. The film’s distributor was “pitched” at the Cannes film festival in October and released world-wide in early November.

The George Washington University Museum and The Textile Museum featured several important exhibits this fall:

- “A Nomad’s Art: Kilims of Anatolia” exhibition features kilims, which are woven by women to adorn tents and camel caravans. Kilims are enduring records of life in Turkey’s nomadic communities, as well as stunning examples of abstract art. This exhibition marks the public debuts of treasures from the museum’s Morad Megalli collection of Anatolian kilims dating from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The exhibition was on display through December 23, 2018;

- Internationally acclaimed Azerbaijani artist Faig Ahmed’s artwork, which throws conventional patterns into chaos, was on display from October 6 through December 23. The “Nonvisual Language” exhibition introduces new work and installations by Mr. Ahmed inspired by Peruvian textiles in the museum’s collections as well as his field research in the Peruvian Amazon;

- The “Eye of the Bird: Visions and Views of DC’s Past” exhibition examined the evolution of Washington, DC through two newly commissioned, 6-foot panoramic landscape paintings by Tudor Place Artist in Residence Peter Waddell and related works. One painting shows the grand city that planner Peter (Pierre) L’Enfant envisioned. The other captures the city’s developments by 1825, the year L’Enfant passed away. “Eye of the Bird” was organized in cooperation with Albert
H. Small Center for National Capital Studies and was on display October 17 through December 23; and

- The traveling exhibit, “Enduring Ideals: Rockwell, Roosevelt and the Four Freedoms” will be on display from February 13 to April 29, 2019. The exhibition includes the iconic painting created by Norman Rockwell in the early 1940’s, which capture the four freedoms outlined by President Franklin D. Roosevelt—freedom of speech; freedom of worship; freedom from want; and freedom from fear. The exhibition brings together these masterpieces with works by contemporary artists that explore freedom in today’s world.

American University’s College of Arts and Sciences received $255,000 in funding from the Henry Luce Foundation to help establish the DC Humanities Truck, featuring a recording studio, mobile workshop space, and gallery for pop-up exhibits. Starting this semester, faculty and students will drive the truck to DC neighborhoods to interview residents and document the stories of diverse, underserved communities throughout the DC region.

Cristal Truscott, the William Wilson Corcoran Visiting Professor of Community Engagement at the George Washington University Columbian College’s Corcoran School of Arts and Design this year, spoke about developing theater into activism at the Flagg Building on September 18. Ms. Truscott is a playwright, scholar and educator. Her educational theater experience SoulWork was created as a theatrical platform of social justice, diversity and acceptance.

**SPORTS**

The University of Maryland men’s soccer team won the 2018 National Collegiate Soccer Championship. On the biggest national soccer stage of all, the 11th-seed Terrapins earned its 11th straight victory—this one over the University of Akron. The team overcame an early-season scoring drought, failing to score a goal for the first 476 minutes of the year. But at the NCAA tournament, the Terps ran the table defeating North Carolina State, Duke, Kentucky, Indiana and finally Akron. This is the school’s first soccer national championship in ten years.

The George Washington University Athletics Department had a busy fall:

- **Coaches**
  - **GW’s Men’s Rowing** Assistant Coach Steve McCarthy was named to the US Under-19 National Team coaching staff. McCarthy helped train the 59-person roster that competed at the 2018 World Rowing Junior Championships August 8-12 in Racice, Czech Republic. McCarthy primarily worked with the Men’s Pair, preparing them for a slate of races on the international stage;
  - **GW Head Swimming and Diving Coach** Brian Thomas has selected all of his staff for the 2018-19 season adding Wesley Mattice as Head Diving Coach. Mattice comes to GW after training the country’s most elite youth divers with USA Diving’s Junior National Team based locally out of the Kennedy Shriver Aquatic Center (KSAC) in Rockville, MD. A former collegiate diver, Mattice has developed a strong reputation for his work preparing the nation’s best for international competition as the head coach at KSAC. His coaching highlights include a trip to the 2015 Pan American Junior Championships. In addition, Mattice is a member of the USA Diving Code of Conduct Committee representing Zone A and an annual participant in its national conference;
Shane Winkler was named Head Softball Coach at GW. Winkler has spent the past decade leading Charleston Southern, building the Buccaneers into a Big South contender. He totaled a program-record 261 wins with the Buccaneers and guided them to their first NCAA Tournament berth in 2014. He also has experience in the pro game as a former head coach and assistant in the National Pro Fastpitch League;

Coach Jennifer Rizzotti oversaw the Women’s Basketball Team’s 10-day European tour (See Below). Coach Rizzotti subsequently returned to Spain in September as an Assistant Coach with Team USA for the 2018 FIBA World Cup of Basketball. (For more on Coach Rizzotti’s experience with the GW Women’s Basketball Team, see below);

Todd Hamer, a 20-year veteran in the collegiate strength and conditioning field, was named GW’s Director of Strength and Conditioning. Hamer comes to GW after spending the last 12 years at Robert Morris University, where he was responsible for training and overseeing student-athletes in more than 20 sports as the Director of Strength and Conditioning; and

Marci Robles was named Head Coach of the GW Women’s Rowing Program. Robles, who grew up in the DMV area, joined the Colonials from Rutgers University where she served as the Assistant Coach for the Rowing Program for the past year. As the Assistant Coach and Recruiting Coordinator, Robles was responsible for the technical and mental development of athletes and helped lead the team to their best finish of seventh at the BIG 10 Championship in 2018.

**Women’s Basketball Team**

- The team traveled to Spain for ten days from August 13-23 with stops in Madrid, Valencia and Barcelona. While there, the team played four exhibition games against European clubs. It is the program’s first offseason foreign trip under Head Coach Jennifer Rizzotti. (For more on Coach Rizzotti, see above);

**Women’s Rowing Team**

- Under the leadership of Coach Robles, the 2nd Varsity 4 took First Place at Eastern Sprints and the program earned its first ever sweep of Columbia University in the annual dual race, the Cherry Hill Invitational (for more on Coach Robles, see above);

**Cross Country**

- Senior Andrew Weber became the first GW Men’s Cross Country runner since 2014 to win an event as he paced the Colonials to a team title in the Mount St. Mary’s Duals on August 31. The win is a milestone as the Colonial Men who claimed not just the Team Meet, but also the first Meet since 2014, finishing with 44 points, 14 ahead of second-place Mount St. Mary’s;
- The Women’s Cross Country Team placed second, led by junior Suzanne Dannheim’s second place finish; and
- GW finished second overall at the Meet, trailing only reigning Division III National Champion Johns Hopkins. The Buff & Blue were the top Division I team at the event.

Howard University is the unlikely training ground for a hopeful soon-to-be Olympian. Bison swimmer Latroya Pina plans to compete in the 2020 Olympics for Cape Verde. Pina is a first-generation American (her mother is from Cape Verde) and she looks forward to representing her cultural home. Together with two of her siblings—one at St. Peter’s University and the other still in high school—she will make up 75 percent of the Cape Verde Olympic swimming team. Pina says she sees her competition in the 2020
Olympics as continued validation of Howard’s swimming and diving program and what its swimmers can offer the sport.

The USA Basketball Women’s National Team played at the George Washington University’s Charles E. Smith Center for its final stateside exhibition game before heading to Europe for the 2018 FIBA World Cup. The US squad, which was assisted by GW Women’s Head Coach Jennifer Rizzotti, faced Japan in exhibition play at the Smith Center on September 10. (For more on Coach Rizzotti, see above).

**Life After College**

Streetcar 82 in Hyattsville is a brewery owned by three Gallaudet University alumni which has a mission that goes beyond beer—to give Deaf and Hard of Hearing people a place to work and unwind. Owners Jon Cetrano, Mark Burke and Sam Costner, who are Deaf, opened Streetcar 82 in the fall turning their home-brewing hobby into an operational brewery with the aim of providing employment and visibility to the Deaf community. Both Deaf and hearing customers frequent the brewery but for the deaf customers, it is a scarce opportunity to blend in.

Georgetown University alumna Rose Gottemoeller, NATO’s Deputy Secretary General and a champion for gender equality, received the International Trailblazers Award from the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security (GIWPS). Gottemoeller received a bachelor’s degree in languages and linguistics from Georgetown in 1975. Melanne Verveer, Executive Director of GIWPS, presented the award to Gottemoeller along with Shéhérazade Semsar-de Boisséson, a member of Georgetown’s Board of Directors. “Integrating gender perspectives into the work of NATO and the security sector more broadly is an important tool to enhance operational effectiveness,” Verveer said.

The George Washington University honored nine alumni during Colonials Weekend in late October. The alumni were honored for their significant career accomplishments and service to the university as part of the 2018 Alumni Awards.

- The 2018 Alumni Achievement Award recipients included:
  - Nelson A. Carbonell Jr., (BS ’85);
  - Mischel L. Kwon (CERT, ’04); and
  - Ronald A. Peterson (MHSA ’74);
- The Recent Alumni Achievement Award recipients include:
  - Joshua D’Angelo (DPT ’13); and
  - Jacob S. Sherman (BA ’08);
- The Jane Lingo Service Award Recipient is Ashley N. Trick (BA ’15); and
- The Alumni Outstanding Service Award recipients are:
  - Stephen J. LaForte (BA ’86; JD ’93);
  - Renee Lewis (MS ’90); and
  - Steven L. Skancke (BA ’72; MPhil. ’78; Ph.D. ’81).

Presented annually, the Alumni Achievement Awards and Recent Alumni Achievement Awards are given to graduates who have contributed notably to their fields. Outstanding Service Awards are given to alumni who have made significant contributions to university programs.
The American University Alumni Board and Office of Alumni Relations announced the recipients of the 2018 alumni awards, the highest honors presented by the AU Alumni Association. The recipients were honored during All-American Weekend on October 20. They included:

- The Neil Kerwin Alumni Achievement Awards recognizing alumni who have distinguished themselves through their professional accomplishments including:
  - Andre Ingram (BS ’07), a physics major who spent ten years trying to break into the NBA and play professional basketball. After 350 games, Magic Johnson, GM for the Los Angeles Lakers called him up from the NBA’s G-League to play in the Lakers’ final two games of the season. Scoring 19 points, Ingram’s NBA debut was the fourth highest scoring during a debut performance for any Laker in history and Ingram’s debut at age 32, nearly ten years older than the average rookie, made headlines around the world; and
  - Jack Rasmussen (MFA’75; MA’83; PhD’94), who opened the Jack Rasmussen Gallery in Washington in 1975, one of the first commercial galleries in downtown Washington. Rasmussen has been the director and curator of the American University Museum at the Katzen Arts Center since it opened in 2005;
- The Alumni Recognition Award honors alumni who inspire the world around them through service to a philanthropic mission or the AU community was given this year to Rebecca Geller (BA’02; JD’07) who, as the owner and CEO of the Geller Law Group, provides high-quality legal services while emphasizing a healthy work-life balance. Her firm has received multiple awards even as it has grown to 13 lawyers representing 3,000+ clients;
- The Alumni Eagle Award which recognizes alumni who have rendered outstanding service to the university and/or the Alumni Association was given to Brandon Krapf (BA’14) who, as a decorated US Army combat veteran, has worked in international affairs. In 2013, he was listed on the “Top 99 Under 33 in Foreign Policy,” and has seen his writings and interviews featured on NPR, NBC, USA Today, Fair Observer and Small Wars Journal. Brandon has traveled, lived or worked in more than 60 countries and is writing a book about his time studying Arabic in Yemen; and
- The Rising Star Award which recognizes recent AU alumni (received a degree within the past ten years) who are making significant contributions to society through their professional or philanthropic work went to Sarah McBride (BA’13) who is the National Press Secretary for the Human Rights Campaign and author of Tomorrow Will Be Different: Love, Loss and the Fight for Trans Equality. In 2012, Sarah made national headlines when she came out as a transgender while serving as student body president at AU.

Britain’s Queen Elizabeth II recently honored Georgetown University alumnus Haroon Yasin (SFS’15) for his work to educate underprivileged children. Mr. Yasin attended Georgetown University in Qatar and was one of 60 winners of the 2018 Queen’s Young Leaders Awards, a global program that recognizes and celebrates young people who are using their skills to impact their communities.

George Washington University Men’s Basketball alum Pops Mensah-Bonsu was named General Manager of the Capital City Go-Go, the new NBA G-League of the Washington Wizards which began play this fall at the newly built St. Elizabeth’s East Entertainment and Sports Arena in Southeast DC. Mensah-Bonsu amassed 1,308 points, 676 rebounds and 141 blocks from 2002 to 2006 in a GW basketball career that included a pair of NCAA Tournament appearances. During his pro career, Mensah-Bonsu saw regular season action with five NBA teams, plus a training camp stint with the Wizards in 2013. He also played parts of two seasons in the G-League, highlighted by a strong run with the Fort Worth Flyers as a rookie in 2006-07 that earned him an all-star nod. Internationally, he represented Great Britain in the 2012...
Olympics in his home country, and his stops overseas included clubs in Spain, Italy, France, Russia, Turkey, Israel and Greece.

Former University of Maryland women’s basketball stand-out Kristi Tolliver tore it up on the court last season, playing for the women’s professional basketball team the Washington Mystics—the only player on the team who played in every game averaging 13.9 points per game. Tolliver is famous for the three-point shot which tied the 2006 championship game with 18.8 seconds left on the clock. UMD went on to win the game in overtime giving the Lady Terps its first and only NCAA women’s basketball title. She has also joined the Washington Wizard’s Summer League coaching staff with a career goal to coach in the NBA.

Georgetown University alumna Rebecca Kuang (SFS’18), a 2018 Marshall Scholar, has published the first novel of her three-book deal with HarperCollins Publishing. Writing as R.F. Kuang, she tackles issues of gender, intergenerational trauma and dehumanization in her debut novel. Kuang, who graduated in May 2018 studied military strategy, collective trauma and war memorials in Chinese history while at Georgetown, all of which colored her novel based on the Nanjing Massacre of 1937 when Japanese soldiers captured Nanjing and killed and raped many of the Chinese residents of what was then the national capital. As part of her Marshall Scholarship, she intends to pursue a Master’s in Philosophy in Chinese Studies at the University of Cambridge where she hopes to meld her academic work with her writing pursuits.

**What’s Next?**

**Campus Calendar**

- **March 1-11**  
  Spring Break at **Georgetown University**
- **March 4-9**  
  Spring Break at **Trinity Washington University**
- **March 9-16**  
  Spring Break at **Howard University**
- **March 10-17**  
  Spring Break at **American University**
- **March 11-15**  
  Spring Break at **Catholic University**
- **March 11-16**  
  Spring Break at **George Washington University** and the **University of the District of Columbia**
- **March 11-17**  
  Spring Break at **George Mason** and **Marymount Universities** and **Montgomery College**
- **March 17-24**  
  Spring Break at the **University of Maryland**
- **March 18-22**  
  Spring Break at **Gallaudet University**
- **March 18-24**  
  Spring Break at **Prince George’s Community College**
- **May 11**  
  Spring Commencement at **Howard University** and the **University of the District of Columbia**
- **May 11-12**  
  Spring Commencement at **American University**
- **May 16-19**  
  Spring Commencement at **George Washington University**
- **May 17**  
  Spring Commencement at **Gallaudet, George Mason University**
- **May 17-19**  
  Spring Commencement at **Georgetown University**
- **May 18**  
  Spring Commencement at **Catholic University of America** and **Trinity Washington University**
- **May 19**  
  Spring Commencement at **Montgomery College**
- **May 19-20**  
  Spring Commencement at **Marymount University**
May 23

Spring Commencement at Prince George's Community College and the University of Maryland