From @GWPeterK

It’s "March Madness" on all fronts at GW

The term “March Madness” certainly conjures up a spirit of excitement on campus, beginning with the impressive efforts of our student-athletes during the Atlantic 10 basketball tournaments. This year, we saw the return of both the men’s and women’s basketball teams to post-season play for the first time in a number of years.

March has also been busy on a number of fronts for Student Affairs and for GW. Following a long, cold winter and with the recent return of students from Spring Break, we begin the critical period of wrapping up the academic year and begin to focus on the emerging priorities for the summer and the next academic year.

We still have much work to do this academic year, including an expanded focus on supporting our graduating seniors through the launch of FutureU and with expanded career services support from now through Commencement. At the same time, we eagerly anticipate our newest Colonials coming to campus as part of the Class of 2018 and look forward to working with Admissions and Colonial Inauguration to make the most of their impending arrival.

Spring also brings the annual higher education conference season, which brings exposure for GW as we present on some of the most contemporary topics in the field, and also gives us the chance to host candidates for full-time and graduate positions. Additionally, having just returned from the NASPA Annual Conference, I can say spring is also a wonderful period of renewal and recalibration, that not only allows us to renew our professional networks, it lets us showcase our team and solidify our reputation as an innovative place where great Student Affairs staff continue to make a difference in the lives of our students.

GW Senior Vice President Emeritus Bob Chernak, Peter, and GW alumni #RaiseHigh at the GW Men’s NCAA Tournament game in Raleigh, NC.

At the more broad university-wide level, we have watched as Crawford, The West End, and Schenley have come down, ready to be combined into the newly named “District House” (as recommended by graduating senior Alexandra Blackwell). Elsewhere on campus, the Science and Engineering Hall is already topped off and the Milken Institute School of Public Health building is now open and has a new name in recognition of the landmark gifts to GW. Likewise, in terms of exploring new partnerships, this spring, we have seen the start of a renewed focus on arts at GW, with the possible alliance with the Corcoran School of Art + Design. We anticipate this new creative collaboration will open up even more experiential activities for the GW student community and will continue to elevate the arts at GW.

With all that action, on the court, across the university, in the city, and among our colleagues nationally and globally, it’s hard to not consider GW a March Madness winner, no matter who’s in your Final Four bracket!

Editor’s note: For more of @GWPeterK’s reflections on what’s been happening in March, check out his latest Storify.
Employer Services in the Center for Career Services

By Staci Fowler, Center for Career Services (sefowler@gwu.edu)

The Employer Services team within the Center for Career Services (CCS) engages employers to provide and share internship and career opportunities to GW students and alumni. Employer Services is led by Managing Director Staci Fowler and is divided into two units – Employer Relations (ER) and Employer Development (ED). The ER unit consists of Graham Bottrel (Senior Assistant Director), Kelly McVicar (ER Coordinator), and Samantha Neary (ER Coordinator). ED is made up of three ED Consultants – Steve Scordo, Tara Duprey, and Jen Cadman.

Career Fairs and Industry Expos

Employer Services is responsible for bringing employers to campus for a variety of recruiting and networking events. These events range from industry-focused networking receptions, such as the Media, Journalism and Public Affairs Employer Meet and Greet, to large-scale fairs with 100+ employers, like our Career and Internship Fairs which are held each semester. These events draw on the efforts of all of GW’s career centers and involve heavy marketing campaigns, preparation workshops conducted by the CCS Career Learning and Experience team, and a career fair preparation room at the fair which allows students to receive last minute advice and a forum to practice their job-seeking skills. This past fall, we broke our record for the attendees at a fair with more than 1,500 GW students and alumni and we are already planning for next year’s!

On-Campus Recruiting and Information Sessions

Two of the core programs the Employer Services team coordinates are On-Campus Recruiting (OCR) and Information Sessions. Both programs bring employers on campus to engage with students face to face. Through OCR, students can apply to full-time and paid internship positions across several different industries. Many of these positions are exclusive to GW students and can fast track the recruiting process, which makes OCR a great opportunity for our students. If students are selected to interview, they are able to do so right here on campus.

Employer Services also facilitates Information Sessions for companies and organizations to increase their visibility with GW students. We work with the employer to help build an event that highlights available opportunities, company culture, and the experiences of GW alumni who now work for the employer.

Site Visit Program

The Employer Services team strives to come up with new and unique ways for students to learn about employment opportunities, the workplace, and new trends in the professional world. The Site Visit program lets us accomplish all of these goals by bringing students to the source of these opportunities. Employer Services staff takes students on visits to employers in DC, Maryland and Virginia, giving them a behind the scenes look at how these organizations run. Most site visits include panel discussions or networking receptions, tours of the offices, and information about jobs and internships. The site visit schedule for 2013-14 includes 20 employers across all sectors including the CIA, NBC News, SiriusXM Radio, and the Smithsonian.

Resume Madness

Resume Madness is a signature event Employer Services puts on that connects students with employers for fast-paced resume critiques. This year, we chose to focus on employers who also happen to be GW alumni, and organized the event by industry cluster. Students signed up in advance for 15-minute appointments with an alumnus/a in their industry of choice, such as Business and Economics, STEM, or Arts, Media, and Communication. This year’s Madness, which was held in February, also included an exclusive opportunity for veteran and military students to meet with an alumnus who specializes in transitioning military into the civilian workforce.

Employer Development Program

The Employer Development (ED) model for the newly reorganized Employer Services team grew from goals outlined by the Career Services Task Force in 2010 to build new relationships with employers and strengthen engagement with existing relationships. The long term vision for the ED model is to provide GW students and alumni with access to more jobs and internships and to increase the number of opportunities for students to engage with employers through networking and recruiting events. In Spring 2013, we launched an ED pilot program in collaboration with university-wide career centers and various university stakeholders such as, development and alumni relations. We formalized the program at the start of the current academic year and now have three full-time ED consultants. There are several success stories from the ED program. For example, a new relationship with Macy’s was cultivated and resulted in a comprehensive on-campus recruiting effort. This fall, Macy’s hired six students for full-time positions for its NYC Merchant Executive Development Program. Additionally, Macy’s just completed a full on-campus recruitment schedule in spring 2014. Macy’s was ranked in the top 25 of Universum’s “Most Attractive Employers in the U.S.” to students.

Department Highlights:

- Rebranded as Employer Services and hired Staci Fowler in June 2013 to lead new ER/ED initiatives
- Formalized the Employer Development program after a six month pilot
- Broke a record at the Fall 2013 Career & Internship Fair with over 1,500 students and alumni in attendance
- Revamped annual Resume Madness event to focus on industry-specific resume critiques with GW alumni employers
- Ramped up Site Visit program to include 20 opportunities for students to visit companies and organizations in the DC Metro area.
- Increased on-campus employer engagement by 15% from Fall 2012 to Fall 2013
Staff Spotlight

Sarah Grun (sgrun@gwu.edu)
Program Coordinator, Academic Residential Programs
Center for Student Engagement

DSA: What is your role here at GW? How long have you been with GW?

SG: I've been at GW in the CSE since January 2013 working as a Program Coordinator. I work with our CSE Central Team, primarily with the Faculty in Residence and Faculty Guide Program and our Staff Selection team.

DSA: We have recently been featuring our academic partners in the DSA newsletter. What do you enjoy most about working with the Faculty in Residence/Faculty Guide (FiR/FG) program?

SG: One of the main reasons this position is so exciting is it is giving me an opportunity to work with a population in Student Affairs that I have not worked with previously. As a new professional, who finished her Master's work at Rutgers in 2012, it was really important to me to find a position that would help me continue to grow. There is so much opportunity with the FiR/FG program and that is what I most enjoy and find exciting!

DSA: What is your favorite #onlyatGW moment?

SG: One of my favorite #onlyatGW moments was last year when I attended a School of Public Health event. It was pretty incredible to listen to Ashley Judd as she discussed women and public health issues.

DSA: How did you decide to get into the student affairs field?

SG: Like most, I was incredibly involved at my undergrad institution. My mentor, the Director of Student Activities, introduced me to the world of Student Affairs and I realized that it was truly my passion. I went on to graduate school and had internships in a variety of offices, but the most meaningful experiences were those where I was able to work with students and help them on their own developmental journey.

DSA: What is one way you show your “True Colors” around the office?

SG: I'm pretty “blue” when it comes to the True Colors assessment, and empathy is one of my top five strengths in StrengthsQuest. I definitely show this around the office and in my role when working with colleagues and partners in DSA and around GW. Building meaningful relationships is incredibly important to me and I feel fortunate to have the opportunity to interact with so many great people here at GW on a daily basis!

DSA: What do you do for fun outside of the office?

SG: I'm currently training and fundraising for the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer taking place the first weekend in May. It's 39.3 miles over 2 days and I couldn't be more excited to be participating. When not training, I really enjoy exploring the DC area, spending time with friends, working on craft projects, or sketching. I have a gift for sketching Disney characters!

DSA: What's one of the things you're looking forward to most this spring?

SG: Spring is one of my favorite times of the year. I love the Cherry Blossoms.

DSA: If you could study one topic for a year that had nothing to do with your current career what would it be and why?

SG: This is a really great question! I consider myself a life-long learner and narrowing to one-topic is incredibly difficult. If I were to pick one really fun thing, I would say that I love baking and think it would be fun to take a professional cake decorating class.

DSA Staff Updates

Staff Departures

We wish these former DSA staff member well in their future endeavors:

  Mike Kohn, DSA Human Resources
  Mike Garrett, GW Housing
Around DSA

GW Staff Milestones

Congratulations to the DSA staff members who were recognized for their service to GW and our students during the recent Career Milestone Awards programs.

Five years
Yasmin Brittain (Center for Career Services)
Jennifer Donaghue (International Services Office)
Andrew Goretsky (Center for Student Engagement)
Jovanni Mahonez (Administration and Hallmark Programs)
Lindsay McConnell (Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities)
Heather Schoff (Center for Student Engagement)
Vernon Williams (Center for Student Engagement)

15 years
Danielle Lico (Division of Student Affairs)

25 years
Anthony Bradley (Student Health Service)
Jeff Dagley (Center for Career Services)
Debbie Kirksey (Office of Parent Services)

Alumni Outstanding Service Award

Seven alumni, who advance the mission of university through volunteer efforts — ensuring the university’s impact on our community and future generations of students — will be honored on Thursday, April 3, at the 53rd Annual Alumni Outstanding Service Awards. The Alumni Outstanding Service Awards are given to alumni who advance the mission of the university through dedicated volunteer efforts in support of its programs, thereby ensuring the university’s impact on our community and future generations of students.

This year, Robert Snyder, GWSB BBA ‘95 of DSA Planning and Outreach will receive the Jane Lingo Alumni Outstanding Service Award. This award was created to commemorate the passing of Jane Lingo, CCAS BA ’46. Through her service as an alumna, staff member, and friend, Lingo was a lifelong participant in the George Washington University family. This recognition is awarded annually to a faculty or staff member who is a GW alumnus/a, and who consistently advances the mission of the university through dedicated volunteer efforts in support of its programs.

2014 Award Recipients

2014 Award Recipients

Save the Date! Upcoming DSA Forums

Friday, April 25, 8:30-10:30 am - Sponsored by the DSA Communications Committee
Thursday, May 29, 8:30-10:30 am – Performance Management and Goal Setting

Please watch your email for more information about these great events!

Food for Your Thoughts – Name the DSA Newsletter

We are looking to re-brand the DSA Newsletter with a new look this summer — and with a new look comes a new name! Help us re-name the DSA Newsletter and you could win a special giveaway prize. Bring your suggestions to the breakfast before the DSA Staff Forum on Friday, April 25 (breakfast runs 8:30-9:00 am; the presentation will begin at 9 am).

Colonial Welcome Days and Admissions

Colonial Welcome Days and Admissions Welcome Center Meet and Greets

By Anna Mahalak, DSA Planning and Outreach (amahalak@gwu.edu)

Given how involved DSA is with the current student experience, DSA staff members are invited to join the GW Admissions team in the Admissions Welcome Center (Marvin Center, 1st floor) during guest registration between 9:30-10:00 am or 1:30-2:00 pm on any day through the end of April. Staff will be on hand to introduce themselves, share their backgrounds, and personally welcome prospective students and their parents to GW. You’d be amazed at the difference these connections can make in their visit experience! Getting involved is easy. Check in any time during registration at the Admissions Welcome Center desk, and staff will direct you to the day’s visitors.

And, new this year, Admissions visitors will be wearing a buff and blue sticker to help you easily identify them. As you spot visitors around our campuses, be sure to welcome them, ask about their day, and help them find their way. Whether eating in J-Street, waiting at a crosswalk, or exploring an academic building, a personal touch from you can make all the difference in recruiting a student. It takes an entire campus community to create an exceptional visit experience.

Also, don’t forget to complete this Doodle form to indicate your interest in participating in Colonial Welcome Days!

Colonial Welcome Days - Welcome Breakfast
Time: 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM
Location: Charles E. Smith Center

Colonial Welcome Days - Lunch
Time: 11:30 AM - 2:00 PM
Location: Pelham Commons at West Hall (MVC)
Around DSA (cont.)

Professional Development @ GW

National Start! Walking Day - Lace up your sneakers and make a commitment to live healthier! On Wednesday, April 2, The George Washington University will join the American Heart Association in celebrating National Walking Day. It’s a day to challenge ourselves and our nation to get heart healthy and fit.

The Proud to be GW Festival is looking for volunteers for the Festival Planning Committee. The 2014 Festival will be held on Wednesday, June 11 from 2:00-4:00 pm in University Yard.

Take Your Daughters & Sons To Work Day - The George Washington University will be hosting our annual Take Your Daughters and Sons to Work Day on Thursday, April 24th, 2014 on the Foggy Bottom and Virginia Science and Technology Campuses. This promises to be a fun-filled day for parent and child! If you are a GW faculty or staff member and have a child or children between the ages of five and 18, we encourage you to sign up.

Webinar Watch

Student with Non-Apparent Disabilities: Multicultural-Social Justice Framework [Investing Webinar]
Thursday, April 3, 4 pm
Sponsored by NASPA

With up to 80% of postsecondary students with disabilities diagnosed with one or more non-physical conditions, the seminar will include a discussion on Learning Disabilities, Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder, Autism Spectrum Disorders, Traumatic Brain Injuries, and Psychiatric Disabilities. What are the characteristics of each disability type? How do I communicate and interact appropriately with persons with these kinds of disabilities? How should I respond to students who appear to be “at-risk” or are acutely symptomatic? The ultimate intention of this workshop is for participants to expand their definition of diversity and to acquire basic information and tools necessary to work sensitively and effectively with these student populations.

Register online and learn more about this and other upcoming webinars!

If you are interested in advertising future webinars to DSA in the monthly Webinar Watch section of the newsletter, email Anne Moore or Kristen Franklin.

Professional Development Tip of the Month:

Make meetings more effective!

Read this article to identify one or two opportunities for you to help make meetings more effective in your department. For example, volunteer to send out a meeting agenda prior and offer to take meeting minutes.

Source: https://ode.hr.gwu.edu/administrative-skills

Positive Vibes

“Positive Vibes" are a quick, convenient, and effective way to appreciate a staff member near you! These messages are posted publicly on the homepage of the Colonial Community website, and Positive Vibe recipient receives a special card in campus mail and a Positive Vibe lapel pin. Here are a few DSA staff members who were recently recognized!

Kathy Swain, Thank you for being so wonderful to work with! We all appreciate how you jumped in to learning new Admission tasks with your great attitude and lovely smile :) We appreciate you and are lucky to have you! - From the IOS

Michael Amesquita, Thank you, Michael Amesquita, for making the Summer Housing application launch a success! It was a lot of hard work and dedication, and the payoff was a smooth launch! - From your friends at UWS

Evelyn Hansen, Thank you for taking the time to help prepare our grads for TPE. You are awesome and I really appreciate it! Keep sparkling! - Anne

Summer Housing, Congratulations Summer Housing on the launch of the new website at SummerHousing.gwu.edu! Summer Housing worked hard to achieve a high standard of excellence with their new GW Drupal website. - Online Strategy

SUMMIT Facilitator Training
By Megan Thomas, Center for Student Engagement
mthomas14@gwmail.gwu.edu

Are you interested in becoming involved as a leader on campus? If so you should consider becoming a SUMMIT Facilitator! SUMMIT is GW's outdoor challenge course, located on the Mount Vernon Campus. As a Facilitator, you will lead a variety of groups through our challenge obstacles, to help promote communication, team-building, and have fun along the way!

There are three easy steps to becoming a SUMMIT Facilitator:

1. Email summit@gwu.edu, about your interest.
2. Attend the Classroom Session and notify SUMMIT which Part 1 date and which Part 2 date you will attend. The dates for training are:

   Classroom Session- Thursday, April 10, 6:00-7:30 pm, MC 506
   Part 1 - Saturday, April 12, 10:00 am-2:00 pm
   Friday, April 18, 10:00 am-2:00 pm
   Part 2 - Saturday, April 19, 10:00 am-2:00 pm
   Saturday, April 26, 10:00 am-2:00 pm
3. Attend the training then shadow a session.

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Page 5
Faculty Guide Program:
Building Professional Bridges

Jennifer Bertolet (bertolet@gwu.edu)
Residence Hall: Clark and Cole
School: CCAS
Department: History and English for Academic Purposes

DSA: What has your experience with the Faculty Guide program been?
JB: I have been teaching at GW for six years, but my ties to the university extend beyond that since I am a GW alumna; I earned my MA and Ph.D. in history here. In my second year of teaching, a student in one of my classes, who was also a house scholar (aka house staff), suggested that I consider serving as a faculty guide. He provided me with a brief overview of the program and when I looked into it further, I found that it was definitely something in which I wanted to participate. The concept of fostering connections between students and faculty outside of the classroom is a strong one. Moreover, since I was a resident assistant as an undergrad, I was interesting in building a professional bridge between academics and resident life at GW. I am now in my fourth year as a faculty guide, having served two years in Thurston and two years in Clark and Cole at the Vern.

DSA: How does your position allow you to enhance the student experience in the residence halls/outside of the classroom?
JB: In the four years that I have served as a faculty guide, I have worked in freshman residence halls. From my perspective, the most important goals there are to build community and to help students recognize the valuable role that faculty can play in their lives both in and out of the classroom. In that capacity, I use programming to pull students together, introduce them to opportunities and resources at GW and within DC, and to give them regular access to a faculty member with whom they don’t necessarily take any classes. All of this also serves to show students that GW is committed to their development and well-being as individuals, members of a larger community, and future professionals. Academically, faculty play a far-reaching role in that, but the Faculty Guide/Faculty in Residence (FG/FiR) program makes it clear that GW faculty members are committed to students beyond academics.

DSA: What are some programs you have hosted recently?
JB: FGs and FiRs are fortunate to have great flexibility in the types of programs that they host. I have found that varying the size and type of programs is the best way to reach students and pave the way for meaningful interactions. Early in the academic year, large events like ice cream socials and pizza parties give me the opportunity to meet the residents and to begin making connections with them. I continue to host some large events throughout the year, but integrate smaller programs after the early introductions. In this way, I have been successful in fostering relationships with students, which extend beyond their year in the residence hall to which I am assigned. The type of programming that I have done is varied, but includes Newseum visits, Nats games, attendance at GW campus productions, small group brunches in DC, Eastern Market trips, and Potomac River cruises. Mixed in with that are more academically themed events, which give students the opportunity to bolster their resumes, learn how to ask for faculty strong letters of recommendation, and to learn more about applying to graduate school. Lastly, I do some one-on-one events (lunch, dinner, coffee) with students who are struggling or with whom my mentorship role is more fully developed or long lasting.

Hometown: Bucks County, PA
Favorite Movie: ‘Home for the Holidays’
Hobbies: Skiing, kayaking, traveling, photography, hanging out with friends, attending concerts
Favorite Quote: “I am a great believer in luck, and I find the harder I work, the more I have of it.”

DSA: What has your interaction with Division of Student Affairs/CSE staff been like as a Faculty Guide?
JB: CSE has been a great partner to me for the last four years, and I really do consider this a partnership. I am fortunate to have worked with fantastic directors, ACs, RDs, and house staff at Thurston and the Vern. They have done a great job of supporting and promoting the FG/FiR program and they have been very supportive of me, personally. My job as a faculty guide would be much more challenging without them. Since I have worked at the Vern for the last two years, I really must give Jen Alexander and rest of the Vern team a big thank you. The Vern presents CSE with some challenges and this has been a difficult year there, but the entire team has done an excellent job of supporting Vern residents, supporting each other, and supporting FGs/FiRs.

DSA: Anything else you’d like to add/think Division of Student Affairs staff should know about Faculty Guides, the students you work with, or the program as a whole?
JB: I am grateful for the opportunity that I’ve had to participate in the FG/FiR program and am proud to have helped grow and strengthen the program over the last four years. The program itself and the relationships and friendships that it has enabled me to develop with students, faculty, and CSE staff, present and past, are meaningful to me and have enriched my life.
MOOC Madness: Exploring the Student Affairs in Higher Education Profession
By Anna Mahalak, Planning and Outreach (amahalak@gwu.edu)

Whatever your opinion is on “disruptive” power of Massive Online Open Courses (MOOCs), they are growing in popularity and are worth noting. Over the past few months I have been participating in a MOOC entitled “Exploring the Student Affairs in Higher Education Profession.” This course is offered through a partnership between Colorado State University and NASPA. Over 11,000 people signed up, spanning 19 different countries.

As a new professional in the field, contemplating beginning a graduate program, I believe this course included three main benefits for me: 1) a better understanding of MOOCs; 2) continuing my free education in student affairs; and 3) creating connections with other students.

While module quizzes were not particularly in-depth or challenging, each week’s suggested readings, videos, and powerpoints did provide new resources with a practical use. Typically, MOOCs offer more generalized content that’s meant to provide you with a breadth of understanding across the subject matter. This course offered a range of module topics including theories of student development and success, history of higher education and student affairs, and professional development and connections in the field.

One of my favorite modules focused on “The Future of Student Affairs” – based on a webinar hosted by NASPA. By watching the suggested TED talk videos and reading the suggested articles, I am now better able to identify future trends impacting student affairs and higher education – including social network and social media influences, as well as new online forms of learning and student engagement.

DSA Recipes of the Month
Soba and Slaw Salad with Peanut Dressing
By Kelly McVicar, Center for Career Services (kmcvicar@email.gwu.edu)

Ingredients:
6 oz. soba (buckwheat) noodles
6 cups shredded red cabbage
2 cups grated carrot
3/4 cup thinly sliced green onions, divided
1/2 lb. cooked shrimp or chicken, coarsely chopped
1/4 cup plus 1 Tbsp. soy sauce
1/4 cup plus 1 Tbsp. rice vinegar
2 Tbsp. canola oil
1/4 cup peanut butter
3 tsp. Thai chili paste with garlic
2 Tbsp. dry roasted peanuts, for garnish

Directions:
1. Cook noodles according to package directions. Break noodles in half for a salad that is easier to serve and eat. Drain; rinse with cold water.
2. Combine noodles, cabbage, carrot, 1/2 cup green onions, and shrimp/chicken in a large bowl.
3. Combine soy sauce, rice vinegar, canola oil, peanut butter, and chili paste in a small bowl. Whisk until blended. Add dressing to the slaw mixture, tossing gently to coat. Garnish with peanuts and remaining green onions. Serve at room temperature or chilled.

TIPS: I buy bags of broccoli slaw as a quick substitute for the cabbage and carrots. This dish makes great leftovers, too, and can be eaten cold!

Lemon Asparagus Chicken
By Seth Weinshel, GW Housing (sdweingw@gwu.edu)

8 oz skinless chicken breast, cut into 1-inch cubes
Kosher salt, to taste
1/2 cup reduced-sodium chicken broth
2 tablespoons reduced-sodium soy sauce
2 teaspoons cornstarch
2 tablespoons water
1 tbsp olive oil
1 bunch asparagus, ends trimmed, cut into 2-inch pieces
6 cloves garlic, chopped
1 tsp chili flake
Juice of 1 lemon
Zest of 1 lemon
Fresh black pepper, to taste

Directions:
1. Lightly season the chicken with salt, pepper, and chile flake. In a small bowl, combine chicken broth and soy sauce. In a second small bowl combine the cornstarch and water and mix well to combine
2. Heat a large nonstick pan over high heat, when hot add 1 teaspoon of the oil, then add the chicken and cook until browned, about 4 minutes on each side. Add the asparagus and cook until tender-crisp, about 3 to 4 minutes. Add the garlic and cook until golden, about 1 minute. Set aside.
3. Add 1 teaspoon of oil and the chicken and cook until browned and cooked through, about 4 minutes on each side.
4. Add the soy sauce mixture; bring to a boil and cook about 1-1/2 minutes. Add lemon juice, lemon zest and cornstarch mixture and stir well, when it simmers return the chicken and asparagus to the wok and mix well, remove from heat and season to taste. Serve over rice.
Colonial Inauguration Winter Retreat

Colonial Inauguration is made up of approximately 60 student staff members, each bringing their own diverse experiences, backgrounds and viewpoints to their position. For these reasons, they are excellent ambassadors for the university as they are able to complement each other’s strengths and use their shared experiences to create a successful experience for our incoming students and families. To help our staff begin its progression towards becoming a cohesive and welcoming group, Colonial Inauguration organizes two retreats for its staff during the spring semester. Most recently, we held our Winter Retreat on the Mount Vernon Campus on February 22 and 23.

The Colonial Inauguration staff in attendance included the CI Leadership Team, the Colonial Cabinet, and the CI Staffers. Cabinet members and Staffers participated together in various icebreakers and team building activities, including one in which they are able to compare how others see them with how they perceive themselves to help them understand the importance of self-reflection and the importance of inclusive communication. They also participated in staff-specific preparations for CI, including Cabinet selecting their opening song for CI and Staffers learning games and activities with which to engage siblings. Both groups also had the opportunity to reflect on the much personal and group advancement they made over the course of the retreat.

Winter Retreat provided an intimate setting for staff members to share personal anecdotes and get to know each other on a deeper level. Aby Barry, a sophomore Cabinet member from Dakar, Senegal majoring in International Affairs, had this to say about what the CI staff took from the weekend’s activities: “We learned that we have more in common with our fellow staff members than we had previously expected, and discovering that we share certain life experiences allowed some of us to see for the first time the great potential we have to become a close team.”

Spending close to a full 24 hours together allowed Cabinet members, Staffers, and even Leadership Team members to open up to the co-workers with whom they will be spending the summer. Winter Retreat created greater group cohesiveness and allowed each member of the CI Staff to connect with those whom they may not have gotten to know otherwise. This year, as it does each year, Winter Retreat has left the staff more united and, more importantly, has helped prepare the staff to better fulfill the mission of Colonial Inauguration.

Green Move-Out

Green Move-Out, a major university initiative, makes the residence hall move-out process more environmentally- and community-friendly through a multifaceted donation drive. During move-out, students drop items such as bedding and linens, cleaning supplies, food, clothing, and books in boxes in residence halls labeled with a Green Move-Out sticker. These items are then bagged and donated to local charity partners. This initiative is only made possible through the support of an unprecedented partnership of students, staff, faculty, and sponsors.

We rely solely on our faculty and staff for the final shifts of Green Move-Out as most students have moved out of their residence halls. Thank you for signing up!

Division of Operations Brown Bag Lunch: Edible Landscaping and Container Gardening

Join the Division of Operations for a brown bag lunch on Edible Landscaping and Container Gardening. It will be Wednesday, April 2 from 12 - 1pm in Marvin Center Room 307.

Event Description: We are right in the middle of planting season, so now is the time to learn more from GW’s pros! The Division of Operations Grounds Team is here to help you energize your green thumb! Whether you are a seasoned pro or brand new to gardening and landscaping, we hope you will join us for this exciting Brown Bag Lunch!

The Grounds Team will tell us about edible landscaping, how we can do this at home, and share environmental benefits of the practice. Don’t have space at your home for landscaping? No problem! The team will also share tips for container gardening.

Please bring your lunch - light refreshments will be provided.

Those interested can RSVP here.
2014 NASPA Region II Conference

Registration is now open for the 2014 NASPA Region II Conference. The 2014 regional conference, entitled DO/SA is being held from June 8-10, 2014 at the Seaview Resort in Galloway, New Jersey right outside of Atlantic City.

Don’t miss your chance to contribute to the conference by submitting a program proposal by March 14, 2014. To submit a proposal or to learn more about the 2014 NASPA Region II Conference please visit their [website](#).

Education Advisory Board Webinar Series

The new Education Advisory Board (EAB) webinar series runs from April through July. Many of the webinar topics should be of interest to the work of DSA staff. See below for registration details, noting that registration is free through GW’s EAB membership, and you will need to register for access to the EAB website using your @gwu.edu email address.

**Leveraging Data to Demonstrate Impact:** Monday, April 14

**Creating a Culture of Giving Among Current Students:** Monday, June 23

**Supporting International Students**
- **Part I:** Navigating Successful Campus Transitions for International Students: Thursday, May 22
- **Part II:** Revamping Academic Integrity and Mental Health Initiatives for International Students: Thursday, June 19
- **Part III:** Developing Customized Career Resources for International Students: Thursday, July 10

You can sign up on the [EAB website](#) or by clicking the above links.

Take a Break With “We Are GW”!

The "We Are GW" Faculty & Staff Campaign encourages all George Washington University employees to support GW’s programs and initiatives. All faculty and staff can participate by making a gift of any amount in the current fiscal year, which runs from July 1 - June 30. Throughout April, we will hear from key leaders and members of the Colonial community about the importance of giving to GW. The "We Are GW" Faculty & Staff Campaign committee will be in Kogan Plaza on Monday, April 7, 9-11 am and in the Enterprise Hall Lobby (VSTC) on Thursday, April 10, 9-11 am. Take a break, bring a friend and grab some coffee!

Together...We Are GW. Join more than 1,000 of your colleagues in the "We Are GW" Faculty & Staff Campaign and make a gift today.

2014 GW LEAD Program

The GW LEAD program has developed programming to help you better collaborate and build community at GW this year. LEAD will have coffee breaks, power hours, and other activities that will bring the LEAD community together and help you make connections. Stay tuned for details on upcoming events, including a Coffee Break in April and a Power Hour in May.

The goal of this year’s programming is to encourage participants to create and lead stronger teams within their departments and divisions, allowing for more impactful collaborations as well as the development of cross departmental relationships necessary for effective leadership at a multi-faceted university.

**Discover Secrets for New Managers**

Are you looking for tips and strategies to improve your management skills? LEAD is offering members access to “The Secrets for New Managers” webinar presented by Leadership IQ. We encourage you to watch the webinar with your teammates, and discuss management challenges and strategies, such as tips for delegation and the five biggest mistakes new managers make and more! Please email at askode@gwu.edu for a link to the webinar. Please note, the link to this webinar will expire at the end of March.

**Become a Better Team Player**

Looking to build or strengthen your team? Check out our [Building Effective Teams Learn Now Guide](#) for tips, techniques and strategies for improving teamwork at GW!
In Case You Missed It: DSA in *GW Today*

*Morning Joe* Co-Host Mika Brzezinski to Discuss Her ‘Food Addiction’

New App Is a Guide to the Career Fair

University Selects Centralized Student Health and Counseling Center Location

Landslide Victories in Student Association Election

Mika Brzezinski: ‘My Brain Was Fixated on Food For Most of My Life’

#HistoryLivesHere Contest Winner Announced
Looking for ways to enhance the impact of your behavioral intervention team? Wondering how to integrate career exploration into the college experience? Education Advisory Board (EAB) has your solution.

EAB's new insight centers consolidate our most relevant and progressive research and resources on today's key topics to save time and keep you ahead of the curve. Get connected to the resources that will help you:

- Better manage mental health services on campus
- Target support services and programming for special populations
- Integrate career exploration at every level of the college experience
- Support academically and financially challenged students and improve time-to-completion

Any member of the GW community can sign-up for an account on the EAB website, which provides access to EAB's Insight Centers, vast library of best practice studies and custom research reports, webinars and other training resources, all of which are included in DSA's membership. To create your account, visit Register for Education Advisory Board and complete and submit the form.

For more information about accessing EAB's programs and services, e-mail Robert Snyder.

Requests for Contributions/Feedback

Interested in contributing to the DSA Newsletter? Have feedback to offer? E-mail Anna Mahalak (amahalak@gwu.edu) with story ideas, events, etc.

The next deadline for submissions is Wednesday, April 16.