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Mayor-elect
talks with
Ward 2



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NEWS ANALYSIS

Changing of the guard

GW will see
new president
and Board chair

by Brandon Butler
Senior News Editor

The names W. Russell Ramsey and Steven Knapp may not be as familiar to the GW community as Charles Manatt and Stephen Joel Trachtenberg, but soon they will be.

With the Board of Trustees' selection of Knapp as the University's 16th president, GW's future leadership is almost set. Ramsey, who is likely to be selected as the next chair of the Board in February, and Knapp, who will assume the presidency in August, will guide GW through a transition that they hope will lead to academic growth.

When President Trachtenberg announced in April that he would step down after 19 years and become president-emeritus, much of the GW community was surprised, but some said it was time for change.

In October, Board Chairman Charles Manatt, a former chair of the Democratic National Committee and ambassador to the Dominican Republic, announced that he too would be stepping down.

Manatt's announcement coupled with Trachtenberg's solidifies a changing of the guard for GW in 2007. Ramsey and Knapp will have an opportunity to be credited with moving GW up into the top tiers of American higher education institutions.

For five years, GW has been on the brink of breaking into the U.S. News and World Report



President-elect Steven Knapp and likely future Board of Trustees chairman W. Russell Ramsey attend a Jack Morton Auditorium press conference announcing Knapp as GW's 16th president. The duo will face a unique set of challenges as the future leadership of the University.

top 50 colleges in the nation. With continued endowment growth, GW could move into and begin to consistently be ranked within the top 50.

Johns Hopkins, where Knapp served as provost for more than a decade is ranked 16th in the report and GW is ranked 52 this year.

GW will face a unique set of challenges, some of which will be continuations of those the University faces now and others will be new challenges over the next two decades.

Campus development

Before Trachtenberg leaves July 31, most of the D.C. government hearings on campus development should be concluded. If all of GW's proposals pass, then a major hurdle

would be crossed.

From there, Knapp will oversee implementation of the plan. While Knapp has a lack of experience in overseeing major construction projects at Johns Hopkins, he will have resources at GW to rely on, including Executive Vice President and Treasurer Louis Katz, who has been overseeing the government's approval of the campus plan.

While the Campus Plan can be altered, once in place and approved by the city, Knapp may not have any major construction projects to originally create. The Campus plan is a 20-year vision for GW, so projects are already largely planned for.

See LEADERSHIP, p. 6

SAHA CASE

Professor's tenure appeal denied

by David Ceasar
Senior News Editor

A faculty committee last week denied the appeal of a tenured engineering professor whom the University has been trying to fire for more than a year.

Debabrata Saha, an electrical and computer engineering professor who arrived at GW in 1986, has been the subject of three suspensions and internal proceedings by the administration to revoke his tenure. Attorneys representing the University say the instructor has engaged in "persistent neglect of professional responsibilities" over the last decade.

Saha, who has been on paid administrative leave since September 2005, appealed the July decision of a faculty panel and a hearing took place last month. The Dispute Resolution Committee unanimously voted to deny the appeal and announced their decision last week, said John Karl Jr., Saha's attorney.

"Naturally, we're disappointed with the decision of the committee," Karl said Sunday. "There was no substantive explanation (in the written decision) that discussed why they decided what they did."

Tracy Schario, GW's Media Relations director, said the faculty committee denied the appeal because "they did not see any compelling reason to change or over-

turn the original decision." Though the denial paves the way for Saha's termination, Saha's future is still not completely clear, according to the Faculty Code.

"The decision of the relevant committee shall be deemed final and shall be implemented by the University," the Code states, "unless the Vice President for Academic Affairs (Donald Lehman) determines that there are compelling reasons not to implement the relevant committee's decision."

Schario said the case is still being reviewed and there is no timetable for Lehman to make a decision. She added, however, that she doesn't expect Lehman to overturn the faculty's unanimous decision.

Lehman did not return an e-mail from The Hatchet as of press time.

Saha's attorney said he is asking that Lehman recuse himself from the process because of a pending grievance against the senior administrator. "We don't think he's objective," Karl said.

He added that he wants to appeal the case beyond the faculty committee to University President Stephen Joel Trachtenberg and the Board of Trustees - the highest governing body at GW.

See SAHA, p. 3

MEN'S BASKETBALL



Sophomore Rob Diggs, senior Dokun Akingbade and freshman Travis King bobble a loose ball Saturday during GW's 76-65 loss to USC in the Wooden Classic in Anaheim, Calif.

Trampled by the Trojans

by Jake Sherman
Sports Editor

ANAHEIM, Calif., Dec. 9 — Finals are this week in Foggy Bottom and a handful of men's basketball players are beginning with failing marks - on the court, at least.

GW's 76-65 loss to the

University of Southern California in the Wooden Classic Saturday won't count toward any classroom grade, but it was a final of sorts - one of GW's final opportunities to justify its early-season cupcake schedule. A chance to show that it could beat a decent team on the road.

By all accounts, the Colonials

got a big fat "F"

Carl Elliott, Maureece Rice and Regis Koundjia may want to beg Coach Karl Hobbs for extra credit. They all shot below 60 percent from the field. They combined for 11 of the teams' 15 turnovers. They served their

See USC, p. 12

LIFE

Beer pong bacteria

Two seniors investigate beer pong germs

by Nour Hammour
Hatchet Staff Writer

Every college student who's ever been involved in a beer pong game knows that it isn't sanitary. But do you really want to know what kinds of bacteria are swimming around those slimy ping-pong balls and Solo cups? Seniors Aaron Heffner and Ben Morrissey did.

Heffner and Morrissey are lab partners in their microbiology class and decided to put the game of beer pong, and the bacterial populations that come along with it, under a microscope for a class experiment.

"Our professor told us in the beginning that he values creativity above all, and there's never been any research done on this before, even though it is a pretty major part of the average college student's life," Morrissey said.

In beer pong - also known as Beirut - two teams stand across from each other at a long table and try to throw ping pong balls into a triangle formation of cups filled partially with beer. Every



time a team makes a throw into a cup, it puts them closer to winning the game and the other team has to drink.

Both Heffner and Morrissey said their starting hypothesis was that they were going to find a lot of bacteria in a typical game.

"It was pretty obvious what we were going to find. It's pretty clear that beer pong isn't exactly a clean game, between people drinking out of the same cups, and the ball falling on the floor," Heffner said.

So to test their hypothesis Heffner and Morrissey set up their own game of beer pong, had eight people play for three hours, going through about a 30-pack of beer before ending the night and letting the bacteria settle.

"We used brand-new balls and cups so that nothing would have any sort of bacteria on it before the game," Heffner said.

Heffner and Morrissey returned to the table the next morning to gather their

See BEER PONG, p. 7

KNAPP REACTION

Local activists optimistic for better relations with GW

by Kaitlyn Jahrling
Metro News Editor

Some community leaders said they believe GW's incoming president may help repair relations between GW and the Foggy Bottom community.

D.C. Councilmember for Ward 2, Jack Evans, said he has not yet met Knapp but looked forward to working on improving town-gown relations. Ward 2 includes Foggy Bottom, which has been the site of ongoing conflict

between some neighborhood activists and the University over development issues.

"I hope that we can start a new beginning here and kind of bring this ... Vietnam War to an end," Evans said. "Clearly there is an opportunity here and I hope it is not squandered."

Steven Knapp, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs at Johns Hopkins University, was chosen earlier this month to succeed University President Stephen Joel Trachtenberg.

He assumes the presidency Aug. 1.

Evans said Knapp's experience with neighborhood relations in Baltimore might have given him an advantage over other candidates for the position. The University has been very successful under Trachtenberg, Evans said, but Knapp has the potential to take the next step in being less development-oriented.

"He used to be the head of the English Department at Stanford ... That's a big deal," Evans said.

Michael Akin, GW's director of D.C. and Foggy Bottom/West End Affairs, agreed with Evans' idea of a new beginning.

"I think having a new leader will absolutely bring a different vision," he said. "I think what the University's done - in terms of community relations in the last 5 years - has been pretty remarkable; we've made a lot of progress. Having a change at the top, I think, will help people understand how significant some of those changes

have been."

Akin said some of the animosity between neighbors and GW may stem from disliking Trachtenberg's personality, which has been criticized by some as being obstinate and hard-headed. Knapp and members of the Presidential Search Committee that chose him describe the incoming leader as a "listener."

Some residents' aversion to change

See FOGGY, p. 3



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