In his last will and testament, George Washington envisioned a university in the heart of the nation’s capital that would serve as an intellectual hub for the country. Today, through our vast network of world-class academic opportunities, access, partnerships and policy-research initiatives, GW puts its knowledge to work for immediate impact.

This is the George Washington University and what we make is History

FEB. 9 1821
The university was chartered by an Act of Congress

4 BLOCKS
from the White House and more blocks from many major government and non-governmental agencies, making research, internship and career opportunities for students and faculty literally a short walk away

3 CAMPUSES
The Foggy Bottom Campus, the Mount Vernon Campus and the Virginia Science and Technology Campus

ONE OF THE LARGEST PRIVATE EMPLOYERS IN D.C.

10 SCHOOLS & COLLEGES

500,000
approximate gross square footage of GW’s Science and Engineering Hall (SEH), the largest academic building dedicated to these fields in the nation’s capital

• GW uses D.C. as a classroom like no other institution, hosting classes in the U.S. Capitol and George Washington’s Mount Vernon Estate. Plus, through a variety of partnerships, GW students have research opportunities with nearly every U.S. federal agency, plus several multilateral groups, including the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, National Institutes of Health, National Institutes of Standards and Technology, the Naval Research Lab, Pan-American Health Organization, Smithsonian Institution and the World Bank, just to name a few.

• Recently, several GW students have received prominent national and international awards. 2020 Marshall Scholar Chloe King ’19 is pursuing graduate studies at both the University of Cambridge and the University of Edinburgh. Ojani-Pierre Waltherst ‘20 has been awarded a 2020 Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Fellowship to pursue a career in the U.S. Foreign Service. Additionally, three GW undergraduates were named 2019 Goldwater Scholars to help them pursue STEM-related careers, and six GW students were selected to address world issues at the 2020 Clinton Global Initiative University (CGI U).

• GW makes a point of connecting academia to policy and the workplace, with its academic leadership often holding positions in high-profile organizations in their respective disciplines. In fact, the university’s Provost, Dr. M. Brian Blake, has served on five National Academies’ studies or committees and on the National Science Foundation’s Advisory Committee for the Computer and Information Science and Engineering Directorate. Additionally, Dean Lynn Goldman of the Milken Institute School of Public Health currently serves on the National Academy of Medicine Governing Council.

• For the third straight year, GW is the #1 provider of Peace Corps volunteers among medium-size universities in the U.S. in 2020 – the eighth time in the past decade that GW has ranked first. In fact, GW has consistently ranked in the top five for the past 14 consecutive years. More than 1,330 graduates have served since the Peace Corps’ founding, making GW among the top 30 highest all-time Peace Corps volunteer producers. GW is also one of the top producers of Teach for America volunteers, with approximately 350 alumni having served over the last 25 years.

• GW has 123 endowed faculty positions, and seven faculty members currently are members of the National Academies. GW is also recognized among the top-producing institutions for Fulbright Scholars, with 85 current and former scholars serving within the university’s ranks, plus numerous Fulbright students working around the world each year. Our alumnus and the creator of the scholarships, former Senator J. William Fulbright, LLB ’34, would no doubt be proud.

• GW was awarded a 2020 Community Engagement Classification from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching for the university’s excellence in committing institutional resources and practices that support dynamic and noteworthy community engagement. For more than a decade, the Classification has been a leading framework for assessing and recognizing community engagement in U.S. higher education.

• Service and real-world engagement are a major part of GW’s student culture. GW’s annual Convocation and Welcome Day of Service officially welcomes the incoming class to their academic and civic life with engaging speakers and service with partners throughout D.C. And this commitment grows during students’ four years: GW features 70 community-engaged scholarship courses, and last year, the GW community logged 759,891 hours of community service.
65% of undergraduates have held internships or co-ops

290,000+ alumni in more than 250+ countries worldwide

Approximately 12,500 undergraduate and 15,300 graduate students enrolled at all locations coming from all 50 states, Washington, D.C., Guam, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands and 190 countries

52%+ of undergraduate classes have fewer than 20 students

500+ student-athletes participate in 27 intercollegiate, varsity sports at the NCAA Division I level

1,700+ military students, veterans and their dependents attend GW

21 Honor Societies

475+ student groups

• Ten GW alumni currently serve in the 116th U.S. Congress. These GW graduates represent constituents from eight different states and U.S. territories. In addition, noted GW alumni public servants include former Secretary of State Colin Powell, former Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, former FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, former Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, former SEC Chairman Mary Schapiro, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Peter Pace, retired Coast Guard Commandant and national incident commander for the Gulf oil spill Thad Allen, and former First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis.

• According to a recent survey, nearly 87 percent of the Class of 2018 reported that, within six months of graduation, they were employed, pursuing a graduate degree, volunteering or are otherwise engaged in a gap year, military service or other activity.

• Through its Access and Success initiative, GW is committed to increasing access to higher education by forming partnerships with organizations such as the Posse Foundation and Say Yes to Education. Since 2015, GW has been test optional, dropping the SAT or ACT requirement for most undergraduate applicants.

• In 1981, the GW Hospital treated President Ronald Reagan in the emergency room after an attempted assassination.

• Edward Teller, nuclear physicist and father of the hydrogen bomb, taught at GW from 1935 to 1941. Edward P. Jones, winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, is a current GW English professor.

• Current and former Supreme Court Justices Clarence Thomas, William Strong, David J. Brewer, Willis Van Devanter and John Marshall Harlan have been among those who have served on the GW Law faculty. Moreover, Chief Justice John Roberts, Justice Samuel Alito, Justice Elena Kagan, Justice Sonia Sotomayor and the late Justice Antonin Scalia have all, respectively, presided over its constitutional law moot court in recent years. Justice Alito presided for the second time in January 2016.

• During his state visit, President of the Republic of France Emmanuel Macron spoke to more than 1,000 GW students at an on-campus town hall. He answered audience questions on issues ranging from France’s involvement in Syria, anti-Semitism, mass migration, the European Union and President Donald Trump’s trade war with China.

• GW’s School of Medicine and Health Sciences will serve as the primary site of the AIDS and Cancer Specimen Resource (ACSR) for the next five years, through a $22 million grant from the National Institutes of Health. Overseen by principal investigators from GW and the University of California San Francisco (UCSF), the ACSR has the largest collection of annotated HIV malignancy specimens globally available to qualified researchers studying HIV and HIV-associated cancers through an established specimen application process.

• The significance of the school colors of buff and blue are that they were the colors that George Washington wore in battle.

• Now 50 percent solar-powered for its electricity, GW is making major strides towards its commitment to being carbon neutral by 2040.

• In 1982, GW established the world’s first political communication major.

• Every four years, GW marks the Jan. 20 inauguration of a new U.S. president and vice president by hosting its own black-tie Inaugural Ball.

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• In 1981, the GW Hospital treated President Ronald Reagan in the emergency room after an attempted assassination.

• One of the most important moments in the 20th century was revealed at a conference on the GW campus: On Jan. 26, 1939, Niels Bohr announced that Otto Hahn had successfully split the atom.

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