

GW SPRING 2003 magazine

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Medical Monument

GW Hospital:
Washington's first
new hospital in
more than 25 years

KAPLAN 2003
Newsweek EXTRA
CONFEE WIN
\$5000
2003

How to Get Into COLLEGE

Ways to Cut Your Tuition Bill
Secrets of the Admissions Game
Tips on the Testing Maze
This Year's Hottest Schools

PLUS: SPECIAL DIRECTORY OF 1966 COLLEGES

GW Named "Hot School"

Special Section Inside

University Strategic Plan Takes Shape

After experiencing more than a decade of steady climb through the ranks of top-tier institutions, University leadership is plotting an aggressive new course to elevate the school's educational and national recognition even further.

Known on campus as the "strategic plan," its largest component is the bolstering of the undergraduate programs. The University's graduate and doctoral programs, many of which already enjoy a national reputation, also will receive attention, as will business aspects of GW's operations.

A key element of the plan is a re-emphasis on writing at the undergraduate level. Current plans call for the implementation of an intensive freshman writing course and discipline-specific writing intensive courses to be taken by sophomores and juniors. Some freshmen will begin taking the new writing course this fall.

In addition, committees in charge of directing the strategic plan have pinpointed seven "areas of excellence" on which the University should concentrate additional resources to create an/or continue programs of national prominence. Proposals were submitted by faculty members and evaluated based on their current University assets, use of Washington-area resources, and relation to undergraduate education. The following areas were selected for additional investment:

- Transportation, Safety, and Security
- Public Policy and Public Administration
- The Sigur Center for Asian Studies
- Biomedical Engineering
- Political Science
- History
- Human Evolution

Combined, these seven areas have received an additional \$482,500 this fiscal year, with more support planned for the

future. The University expects the fruits of this effort to be evident within three or four years.

In addition, by the end of 2004, GW will have invested \$1.5 million in more graduate student support, raising minimum stipends (independent of tuition) to at least \$15,000 an academic year for a majority of graduate assistants and targeting additional funding for graduate assistants in specific programs. GW also has doubled its contribution for graduate assistants who enroll in the University's student health plan from \$500 a year to \$1,000.

A doctoral programs review committee, appointed this past fall, also is assessing the status of each of GW's 48 doctoral programs.

The University will be monitoring the progress of these combined efforts in the next few years. More on the strategic plan will be covered in future issues of *GW Magazine*.

CLAIRE TUCKER



Washington Breeze

GW's newest artwork—a weathervane in the likeness of George Washington—is whipping in the wind atop the Women's Studies building at the corner of 22nd and Eye Streets. It was designed by the late Travis Tuck and donated to the University by Trustee Luther Brady.

Tuck is a celebrated artisan of the Martha's Vineyard area in Massachusetts. His weathervanes of copper and bronze were highly sought after by collectors. He produced weathervanes that are now located in 43 states and 11 countries.

Tuck's break as an artist came when the movie *Jaws* was being filmed in 1974. He was commissioned to make a weathervane for Quint's shark house in Menemsha, Mass. Although the object never appeared in the movie, the shark design was replicated. He went on to garner the business of several famous clients, including Bill and Hillary Clinton, Steven Spielberg, James Taylor, Beverly Sills, and Bloomingdale's, New York.

The George Washington weathervane was perhaps Tuck's final commission, or among his very last. It is unique in its figurative elements, including the gold quill, the scroll, hat, sword, and silvery hair. The golden details and sprightly step make it an important sculptural icon for GW's legacy.