

The WEST GEORGIAN

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Something's in the Water...



Photos Courtesy of: Danny Ivy

UWG Alum develops water treatment solution

Daniel Forte

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A UWG Alum is pioneering environmental protection with his patented product and company, NCLEAR. The phosphorus absorbing solution was co-created by Denny Ivey, a Chemistry major from UWG. Ivey and Founder of NCLEAR Steve Odom have been working on the project since 2011 and have developed NCLEAR to combat the global eutrophication epidemic.

Simply, eutrophication is the buildup of algae in large bodies of water due to excess amounts of phosphorus. Runoff waters that contain fertilizers and sewage all contain high levels of phosphorus that add to the abundance of algae. The takeover of algae essentially chokes out the body of water of oxygen and the thick film blocks the sunlight from penetrating it. Void of

oxygen and water, organisms die as the bodies of water can no longer support aquatic life. The problem will continue to snowball until entire ecosystems break down and compromise the structure of the food chain. Ivey, the environmental chemist and Odom, the Chief Strategy Officer, worked the past six years to obtain a safe synthetic product that can handle many different environmental threats.

Florida, rich in phosphorus, has an abundance of abandoned phosphate mines and man-made holding ponds that contain contaminated water that can not be used without fear of contaminating other bodies of water spreading eutrophication. "Each of these mines is holding millions, even billions of contaminated water that needs to be treated," said Ivey.

These mines were originally used to supply production of fertilizers and steel. After being abandoned for decades, natural weather events such as rainstorms and tropical hurricanes have caused water to flow into the mine and absorb the phosphates left inside. Trapped

inside the mine, there is little danger to the ecosystem, unless the water gets out of the mine. "We call that a breach," said Ivey. "Any type of natural water event can make the mine overflow and that water could spill out and potentially cause a big problem."

Each of the mines in Florida is its own unique challenge, and NCLEAR is planning to build custom wastewater treatment plants that will suit the specific needs of each project. The water will be syphoned and extracted and be brought to the plant, treated with a series of NCLEAR products, and then be diverted so it can eventually be recycled, either through irrigation or to replenish another body of water. "We have a pilot prototype plant that cleans about seven gallons a minute, but we expect our first project to be able to treat 300,000 gallons each day," said Ivey. "It is such a big project that we will even have our own NCLEAR production facility on-site."

Water from the first mine they empty is expected to flow into Tampa Bay, but the goal is to

eventually recycle the water. "With all the mines and lakes we need to treat, this is a 20-30 year project, so there's much more to do," said Ivey.

Florida, naturally behind so low in altitude, has a multitude of man-made lakes and holding ponds that have also become contaminated over the years. Florida has many underground streams that can flow up to the land surface that carry contaminated water that spreads to other bodies of water. These lakes face the same threat as the abandoned mines do, and rather than have to dig more holding ponds to accommodate the growing amount of contaminated water, the Florida Environmental Protection Agency enlisted the help of NCLEAR for its problem. "The Florida EPA wanted us because our product works well, but it poses no threat to the environment," said Ivey. "The entire project is beneficial."

The 20-30 year time frame for completion of the project may seem like a long arduous process, but it is a small price to pay when comparing what could happen if eutrophication goes unchecked.



UWG students win writing Competition

Dee Dee Murphy

Contributing Writer

Two University of West Georgia students received monetary prizes at the English Awards Day ceremony April 19 in the Campus Center Ballroom. The ceremony culminated the Carrollton Writers Guild (CWG) sixth annual UWG Writing Competition.

Competition winners:
Paisley Burklow, David Brown Memorial Award for Poetry (\$200)

Elizabeth Biegler, Vabella Prize for Prose (\$150)

Founded in 2005, and with more than thirty members, CWG has a mission to facilitate the art of all forms of written expression. In 2011, the club contacted Dr. Greg Fraser, professor of English and offered to sponsor

a writing competition.

Prizes were awarded in spring, 2012. The goals were to support promising writers and strengthen links between the university and the community.

Dr. Margaret E. Mitchell, UWG Associate Professor and Director of Creative Writing said, "The Carrollton Writers Guild, an impressively active group of local writers, has provided tremendous support to our Creative Writing Program in recent years by running an annual writing competition that provides both recognition and generous prizes for our most accomplished student writers."

According to Dee Dee Murphy, CWG Vice President for Community Outreach, "We're pleased to recognize the abundance of talent in UWG's writing program."

Sponsors of this year's competition were Vabella Publishing, Dr. Bob Covell, and Deloris Covell

Spring Fling

Reagan Biddy

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As the 2016-2017 academic year comes to an end the Student Activities Council have their annual Spring Fling planned for April 26th to help the student body end their school year on a positive note. The event will take place in Love Valley from 4-8PM. The theme for this years Spring Fling is the music festival Coachella, and will include music, shirts and more that tie in the festival's theme.

"Our students worked with their committee to pick a fun theme and since Coachella is a popular theme the past couple of years with dress, decorations, music they thought this would be a great time to try it for a Spring Fling theme," said Emily Teitelbaum, Assistant Director of Student Events and Programs, as well as the faculty advisor for the Student Activities Council.

Spring Fling will offer many games and activities for students to participate in. These include a mechanical swing ride, a slide, human foosball, giant jenga and inflatable twister. There will also be photo ops, a henna tattoo artist, face painting, taco and ice cream bars, along with a DJ that will focus on Coachella themed music. The Student Activities council have also come up with a Coachella themed design that will be on t-shirts and tank tops that will be given to students for free.

"A few groups on campus will be there too, to have a table or activity like University Recreation, Health Services, and the Honors Council," said Teitelbaum. "It's just a great event to come all together and have some fun."

Spring Fling is an event that has been going on for decades along with Welcome Back Blast that is held at the beginning of every fall semester. These events are held to welcome back students after summer break and Spring Fling is somewhat of a send off party for summer break. This is a great time for students to relieve stress before finals and interact with other students.

"It's a great tradition that I think students really look forward to each year," said Teitelbaum. "Every year we start off the school year with Welcome Back Blast tradition and it's fun to end the year with a fun Spring Fling tradition."

New ballroom lounge coming to UWG

Nikole Gianopoulos

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On Monday, April 24 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. the new Campus Center Ballroom lounge event will take place. Lounge chairs, charging ports, TV and music will be available at the event. This is a time for students to interact with friends, do homework or relax between classes and meetings.

"The idea was to provide students additional lounge space that wasn't outside since it can get warm on the patio and crowded in the atrium," said Manica Pierrette, Coordinator of Events. "After the Election Watch event in the ballroom in the fall, students shared that they enjoyed having a space to watch current issues/news but also relax."

The video wall will be converted to provide news and some cable channels. There will also be new lounge chairs for students to lay on to take a break in between classes. Bean bag chairs may be included as well.

"I hope students will enjoy having a little more privacy, A/C but also being able to watch television," said Pierrette. "I also thought it would be of interest to the students to use the space during the times where it wasn't booked for events but when the Campus Center typically saw a lot of students in the building."

The goal of this event is to attract all students, in addition to those who use to campus center for recreation or special event.

"We want to continue to make this space the heart of our campus and inclusive for all. The Campus Center should be a safe space but welcoming," said Pierrette.

When Pierrette came up with the idea for a new ballroom lounge, the University Recreation staff fancied the concept and provided additional ideas and funding to make it happen. This event has been in the making since last fall.

"We would love to hear back from students what they would like to see in the ballroom lounge and what hours are best for them," concluded Pierrette. "We hope that no matter if you are looking for additional space to study, a place to pass time or meet new people in between classes that you feel comfortable stopping in."



THE HONOR SOCIETY OF
PHI KAPPA PHI

CONGRATULATIONS!

The University of West Georgia chapter 150 would like to congratulate the following new initiates who were selected to membership from the top senior and graduate students. Faculty, professional staff, and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction also qualify for initiation into the Society. UWG's newest initiates were recognized at an induction ceremony on April 17th, 2017 at the Ingram Library.

FACULTY	Amanda M. Fox	Cheri Wallace
Muriel Cormican	Michelle Granden	Carrie Denise Walton
Betsy Dahms	Samantha Hammond	Elizabeth Roddy Wells
ALUMNI	Alissa Harper Mitchell	Blake Michael Whitton
Christopher E. Bergquist	Kimberly Sharon Headrick	
Rachel Lydia Isreal	Kristin Herring	SENIOR STUDENTS
Michelle Spears-Sevy	Tammy R. Hotchkiss	Eric N. Brandenburg
GRADUATE STUDENTS	Heather P. Ivester	Margaret Brown
E. Lynn Addison	Andreana L. Jones	Tyana Monea Brown
Sherry M. Belom	Diane Margaret Kent	Charity Dobbs
Susan J. Bernhard	Ashley B. Kinney	Ifeoluwa I. Duduyemi
Courtney E. Campbell	Nancy McLaughlin-Walter	Kelsey L. Dyer
Leah M. Cannon	Eva Christina Morgan	Raequon D. Jones
Sarah Jonelle Clark	Alyssa D. Ortbal	Cynthia May Kirchner
Kibbey Sarah Crumbley	Emily Nicole Pickering	Taylor Nicole Morris
Jeremy R. Deal	Steven C. Scholl	Shaye Parker
Matthew DeWitt	Deia O. Seale	Ayonna J. Thurman
Patricia S. Durrrough	Gairy Spiers	Carlene A. Williams
Sarah Farrar	Jatin Taneja	<i>Susana Velez-Castrillon, PhD Chapter President</i>
Matthew Fielder	Stephanie Taylor	<i>Jean Cook, MLIS, MS Chapter Secretary and Treasurer</i>
	Phillip Dion Thomas	
	James J.R. Thornton	

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All letters must be signed and include a phone number and mailing address for verification purposes. Letters should not exceed 350 words and should be submitted by 5 p.m. the Friday prior to publication. Editors reserve the right to edit for style, content and length.

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living west

UWG Welcomes a *New York Times* Best Selling Author

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New York Times best-selling author Joshilyn Jackson hosted a book talk in the UWG Campus Center Ballroom in which she discussed her new book *The Opposite of Everyone* on Wednesday, April 12 at 7:00 p.m. which included a reception and book signing. This being her seventh published novel, Jackson has written other famous pieces such as *Gods in Alabama* and *The Girl Who Stopped Swimming*. This event was organized by UWG Center for Diversity and Inclusion.

“The whole purpose is to

talk about diversity and inclusion through the literary media,” said Deidre Haywood-Rouse, Director of the Center for Diversity and Inclusion. “Her book *The Opposite of Everyone* focuses on issues such as prison population, social economic status, inclusion and foster care. A lot of different issues and dynamics that people in general may have to deal with when they share their family history.”

This story revolves around Paula Vauss, and her estranged mother Kai. The two spent the first decade of Paula’s life traveling until unfortunate circumstances occurred which landed Kai in jail and Paula in foster care. After fifteen years of not speaking to her mom, she soon comes to find that she is not an only child and now she has a sister. Now Paula is desperate to find her mother and help put her life back

together while she still can.

Jackson tried very hard to distinguish this book from her others, by using different personal life experiences and creating similar characters that resemble herself and those around her.

“As a writer you’re always trying to say something,” said Jackson. “And you just keep trying to say it with your story until you either say it, or you die. And if you do feel like you say it, then you either stop writing or you realize that you have something else to say. This is my first book where I feel like I’ve said the other things as close as I could say it, and now I am trying to say something else.”

Jackson also closely associates herself with one of the novel’s leading characters.

“I relate most closely with Kai, the mother because she’s a

storyteller and I’m a storyteller,” said Jackson. “She resembles the person that I was when I was 18 or 19 years old.”

Jackson very much enjoys talking with the reader about her books because, “No one has ever read the book that I’ve written,” said Jackson. “And no one has ever read the book that another reader has read.” This shows that everyone who reads her book, interprets it in their own unique and special way which intrigues Jackson as well as helps inspire her to continue creating new material.

Jackson continues writing novels and inspiring those around her to take to the pen themselves. Her book, *The Opposite of Everyone* is being sold in bookstores throughout the nation, and her eighth published novel is on the way.

The UWG theatre company presents:

I N T I M A T E A P P A R E L

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The UWG theatre company presented their first community preview of *Intimate Apparel* written by Lynn Nottage at the Townsend Center for Performing Arts. The performance dates were April 18-22 which started at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, April 23 at 2:30 p.m. The play was directed by a guest artist, Thomas W. Jones Jr.

Intimate Apparel is a personal drama about love and relationships, dreams and desire. To get the audience in the right mindset, the audience were told that the setting of the play is in New York City during the early 1900s. Of course, several things that could pass in today’s society was not accepted by the people during that time period and that affected Esther tremendously. Esther, the hard working African-American seamstress who

creates fashionable lingerie, had a vision of owning her own business someday, which she did.

The way the actors performed the play kept the audience intrigued from beginning to end. While watching, each character was passionate about what they were doing; actually putting themselves into the character. The characters made the audience feel different types of emotions throughout the play. Some scenes caused happiness, sadness, pity, fear and more.

The emotion of happiness came when Esther finally opened her business that she worked extremely hard for. Esther saved every penny she made from selling lingerie to both the high and low society to open a hair salon. The salon was mainly for African-American women, which was a good investment for Esther because the women barely had a place to go to be pampered. Seeing the way she struggled and actually accomplishing her dream brought nothing, but happiness. Especially with it being in the early

1900s, not many African-Americans, mainly women, had their own business. That shows that no matter what obstacles may stand in your way, goals can still be accomplished if the work is constantly put into it.

Even though Esther was a hard worker and accomplished her goal, there was one thing that was upsetting about her character. She did not know how to read nor write. Pity was felt more because Esther was 35 years old. She did not let that stop her though. She knew she needed to know how to do both and got one of her high society clients, Mrs. Van Buren, to help her. It was good that it did not take her long to learn how to do both which brought back happiness during the play.

Esther not being able to read nor write was not the only thing that was saddening. She was a lonely character. Esther has a hard time finding someone to love. It took her a while to finally realize she had a strong connection with the Jewish fabric salesman, Mr. Marks. Esther knew the relationship would be

difficult due to his religion and her skin color. This caused the audience to be fearful because in the past, biracial relationships were not considered acceptable by some of the people. Something bad could have happened to the both of them for even wanting to pursue the relationship.

Overall, the play was very interesting to watch. The way a few of the scenes were set up made the audience feel as if they were a part of the scene as well. For an example, when Esther finally knew how to read and write, she wrote letters back and forth to one of the characters. While the character was reading letters from Esther, he faded in and out of the scene to show what she was envisioning while reading his letters. Even though the title of the play is *Intimate Apparel* and the protagonist makes intimate apparel for the women, the play is mainly about intimacy. The play was executed so well that the audience would still be thinking about Esther after the play is over.

S O C A : “ W e A r e H e r e ”

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This spring UWG welcomes a new organization on campus, cleverly named SOCA, which stands for Students of Caribbean Ancestry and which also happens to be a genre of Caribbean music. “Instead of the regular Caribbean Student Association we wanted to be a little different,” said UWG student and SOCA president Cameron Daly, who is of Jamaican descent. Unlike the African Student Association (ASA),

and BSA (Black Student Alliance), SOCA was created to unite UWG students who share a common ancestry from any island in the West Indies. “We don’t have a lot of representation,” said Daly. “It was like we were left out because ASA, we don’t fit in them, and Americans are like what are you listening to, what are you eating? It was like we were left out and everyone was sectioned off.”

Although SOCA caters to Caribbean students, it is not exclusive to them. SOCA openly welcomes Americans and Non-Caribbean people. “I don’t want it to just be Caribbean students, I want everyone to join, everyone to feel welcome, [and] everyone to learn and share their culture,” said Daly. The

organization hopes to leave their impact very soon. “I want to bring diversity to the campus. I really want to show Carrollton, West Georgia students, there are other types of types of cultures that people are ignorant to,” Daly continued. “I want to make sure Caribbean students don’t ever feel left out. We are here too.”

Students of Caribbean Ancestry was started by Cameron Daly, and group of friends who encompasses her executive board, during spring break. In order or become an organization on campus you have to find an advisor which can be any faculty member on campus, create a constitution, bylaws and positions, and also have dues set. “We started toward the middle of spring break and after spring

break we were like we have to push for this. We have to push for this right now,” said Daly. “We pushed for it and now we’re here two weeks later. We have 70 people within a week. We really needed this. Now it’s like a little family.” SOCA currently has 131 members.

The Students of Caribbean Ancestry plan on having an abundance of events including fundraisers for islands in need, Taste of Tropics food tastings, Dance teams, fashion shows and panel discussions breaking down Caribbean stereotypes and the bleaching epidemics in the West Indies. Their first event took place Friday, April 14 in Riverpointe Apartment complex. To find out more information about joining SOCA, check out OrgSync.

news

The Atlanta Steeplechase comes to Rome

Ariel Disckson

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The Annual Atlanta Steeplechase is coming to Rome, GA on Saturday, Apr 22, 2017. This unique horse race began in 1966, and has continued to carry on its traditions throughout the years. The Steeplechase is a family event, filled with different activities throughout the day. This year's location will be at Kingston Downs in Bartow-Floyd County.

The Steeplechase brings in hundreds of people each year, especially families. The event be-

gins at 9 a.m., and begins with the children's events. These events are sponsored by the Publix Super Market Charities and held in the Kids Corral. They offer pony rides, hay rides, camel rides, rock climbing and shopping in the infield. Shortly after the gates open, this event holds a Jack Russell Terrier race before the main event begin.

The Atlanta Steeplechase Benefits Bert's Big Adventure each year. Established in 2002, Bert's Big Adventure is a non-profit organization that provides an all-expenses paid vacation to Walt Disney World for children that have chronic or terminal issues and their family. To qualify, the child must be between ages 5 and 12. Following the trip, Bert's Big Adventure provides many

other programs and charitable services to the children.

Before the big horse race, The Steeplechase holds an annual hat competition that is sponsored by Van Maur and organized by globalspeak.com. The Steeplechase is known for having elaborate hats worn with bright pastel colors. Women usually have very large hats, with feathers around them, and men typically wear the old-school fedora to match their bow tie. Each winner will be given a ribbon for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. Registration for this contest can be done online, or at the steeplechase.

Early in the afternoon, after the well known tailgating that family and friends hang out at before the steeplechase begins, the big race

gets ready to start. The tailgating is a major part of the event, and gives family and friends the chance to hang out before all of the fun begins. The races in order are the Enghouse Transportation maiden claiming hurdle, Sports of Kings maiden hurdle, Atlanta Hurdle Stakes and the Synovus Georgia Cup. Each winner from the races will be given a prize, then celebrate at the post race party. Each person attending is able to place a bet on which horse they think will win.

To purchase tickets for the Atlanta Steeplechase, you can go online for general admission, college parking tickets, and subscriber tickets. You can also purchase all other tickets and ticket packages at the event at will call.

CARROLLTON'S MayFest 2017

Ariel Dickson

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Carrollton's favorite event is back in town. MayFest will be held this year on May 6, 2017, in downtown Carrollton from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. MayFest is one of the biggest events during the year, and it is always filled with family fun. Each year several people sign up to sell their arts and crafts among the streets, while musicians play their hearts out at the AMP downtown.

"I always make sure I turn in my application to sell my jewelry at MayFest" said Ally Cost, Carrollton resident and online store owner. MayFest is known for their unique individuals selling one of a kind jewelry and other pieces of art. Each item that you will see is all handmade from each vendor, and has a personal touch on each piece. There are always many different art and jewelry booths set up on all corners of the streets, and in between are food and drink vendors. The crafts range from jewelry, paintings, poetry, clothing items, outdoor glass décor items and even some yummy homemade treats for pets.

"The best thing about MayFest is that I can bring my children and my dogs" said Kailee Stone, Carrollton resident. "It is always a good family fun event to get out of the house, enjoy some sunshine and of course shop for unique goodies." MayFest always offers activities for children, to make sure they are a part of the fun. The children's area always has face painters, rock climbing, bounce houses, slides, games and prizes for the children and family members. For those visiting MayFest for the first time, it is always a budget friendly event, with prices ranging from \$5 to \$20, and always has giveaways from many different companies set up at their booths. There are drawings for vacations, gift cards and small prizes from each company with a booth.

One of the biggest fan favorites at this event would be the performers at The AMP, an amphitheater located behind the Irish Bred Pub on Adamson Square. The AMP always has different types of genres playing year-round, and brings hundreds out for fun. This year MayFest, it will hold the annual MayFest Teen Idol. The Teen Idol will begin at 12 p.m. This competition helps those to show off their musical talents, and the chance to win cash prizes. Usually about 10 teenagers are chosen to go into the finals, and the judges are always Carrollton based residents. The music will include country, pop, jazz and as well as hip-hop.

With so many activities at this free event, Along with booths at every corner, all of the originals stores located on the square will and be open as well for shopping and dining.

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sports

UWG cornerback discuss NFL Draft

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West Georgia cornerback, Marcus Sayles, is ready for the NFL Draft. Sayles is currently a senior at UWG and graduates this semester on May 11. "It feels unreal to know that I am an NFL prospect," said Sayles. "I am happy that the NFL Draft is near."

"You would never think the time will come where your college football career is over, but I have been blessed with the opportunity to further my playing at the next level," Sayles continued. "Constant hard work and excellent coaching

have placed me in this position I'm in today. I've remained humble and I thank God every day for every blessing he has given me."

In his four year career at UWG, Sayles started in 46 of 47 games. He had 12 interceptions, 13 blocked kicks, and 123 tackles. Sayles holds the team record for blocked kicks. "I played slot receiver as well as corner coming out of high school, but since college, all I played was cornerback," said Sayles.

To be considered a prospect for the NFL, it takes a lot of preparation. Sayles explained how he's been preparing for draft day for four years. While at UWG, he has earned plenty of awards. The talented athlete won Play of the Year at the Wetpsy's for the blocked kick he had against Clark Atlanta

that ended up being shown on ESPN. In 2015, he earned 1st Team All-Conference and 2nd Team All-Conference and was All American in 2016.

There are a lot of good cornerbacks, but Sayles explained how his quickness, play making ability, and his versatility separate him from other players who play his position. Having the ability to make plays on both defense and special teams is one of his strengths. Sayles also has leadership qualities that help raise his teammates play.

"Coaches trust me with a leadership position and my teammates find me easy to be around with my upbeat personality," said Sayles. "I am very responsible with the decisions i make on and off the field."

He explained how he may

not be the biggest player at his position, but he always try to be a more consistent tackler.

"I push myself to my highest capabilities during the season as well as the off season," said Sayles."

At Sayles pro day, he displayed an impressive vertical jump and 40-time. The NFL prospect continued to do well as he clocked a 4.49 time in the 40-yard dash and the scouts in drills. Since Sayles did well at his pro day, several NFL teams have been in contact with him.

"I have been in contact with the Rams, Texans, Jets, Ravens, and the Bills," said Sayles.

With the NFL Draft being near, Sayles remains focused. "I'm going to continue to prepare and I can't wait to see where I'll be playing at next," said Sayles.

The new home of the Braves

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Opening day has passed and the new stadium has officially become the new home of the Braves. The Braves have christened their new home with a string of victories that they hope to continue as the season goes on. There was no doubt that controversy surrounded the production of SunTrust Park with the \$400 million coming from public funds that came mostly from bonds and transportation taxes.

News broke in 2013 that the franchise would be leaving Turner Field after the 2016 season instead of renovating the stadium. The move would take place upon the expiration of its 20-year lease. Turner Field was originally built for the 1996 Summer Olympics and it was leased to the Braves. While Turner Field was still a relatively young stadium compared to others in major league baseball, it had its faults. Fans constantly complained about the infamous Atlanta traffic,

the inadequate and sometimes unsafe parking. It also wasn't located where most Braves fan lived and traveled from. To adequately revamp and make Turner Field and the surrounding area what the franchise wanted it to be, it would have taken funds that Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed said the city could not afford to support. This is where the plan for SunTrust Park began.

The contribution from Cobb County came not from a public referendum or vote but from the approval of just a five-person commission. There was also controversy surrounding the Atlanta traffic. The new stadium which is about 12 miles northwest of Turner Field sits in between two of the most congested interstates in the area and isn't served by MARTA. Fans were worried that the commute would be that of nightmare, but it turned out to be the opposite. There are 14 ways to get out of SunTrust Park. "We had no problems with parking. Traffic wasn't even that bad either," said Braves Fan Jesse Vinson.

Cobb County was chosen because the majority of the Braves fan base lives in this area and

counties close by. While the MLB has two teams in Florida, the Braves are the only other team in the southeast and that creates a larger fanbase. The neighborhood is established yet growing with new businesses popping up, new hotels being built and more life being brought in. It's a great place to put a new ballpark and grow the area even more. Even with controversy and different opinions, in the end the Braves came out on top. SunTrust Park was built with fans in mind. It gets viewers closer to the action as if you were standing on the field playing first base yourself. The park is filled with new technology that keeps fans updated with the game even while standing in line for your favorite foods. All employees are ecstatic to greet you at the gate. The stadium seats 41,500 providing many social settings as well such as the Chop House, Home Depot Clubhouse, Hank Aaron Terrace and the Xfinity Rooftop.

The Braves have listened to what the fans wanted before the stadium even opened. An official announcement had been made that no outside food or drinks would be allowed unlike at Turner Field. Fans

didn't like that and took to social media to raise their voice. The Braves heard them and immediately changed that rule. Food is another advantage for the stadium. It has anything you could ever want and at reasonable prices from a \$5 burger to a \$15 gourmet burger it has something for everyone.

One thing that has most fans excited is the mixed used development called The Battery. "I love that I can come here and do more than just watch the game. I'm not the biggest baseball fan so having more to do is great." said Cobb County Resident Brianna Woodyard. The Battery includes restaurants, shopping, living quarters and the concert venue, The Roxy. Not only can you experience all it has to offer during baseball season but you can come to your favorite place at any time.

SunTrust Park could be the stadium of the future. After over \$622 million funds put into the stadium, moving to Cobb County and building a stadium specifically for the Braves and their fans has proved to be the best move made in a long time. It's a new era for Braves Country and a bright one at that.

arts & entertainment

Career path for an Artist

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For an artist, creativity is one of the most important aspects of their career. Artists have to be creative in not only the work they produce but in finding new ways to get their artwork recognized. Artists have to figure out how to get people to value their work in a world full of just as talented artists. Shardaya Jones, a sophomore art major at UWG, has built her career around her personal creativity and love for painting. Through every art piece that she produces whether is on a canvas or her recent business of decorating graduation caps, she makes sure her art has a personal value to her clients. Unfortunately, many people don't value artists as much as they value their art.

When an artist decides to pursue art as more than a hobby, judgment starts pouring in. "As a child, I would tell people I wanted to be an artist or fashion designer and they would look at my mom like

are you sure you want to let her do that." Said Shardaya Jones. Jones has had a love for art since she was in elementary school. Her passion grew while taking more advanced classes as she furthered her academic career. When it was time to decide on a major for college, her decision was easy. "With art, you don't really have to have a degree most artists freelance but I wanted a degree to back me up because with a degree there's higher pay and more opportunities. I would like to have my own art studio but I need the degree to get me to that point." Her family was not as accepting to her decision as she hoped. "I took my family a while to accept my decision to be an artist," said Jones. "I think once my mom saw how passionate I was about it she learned to accept that that was what I wanted to do. So now I have the support and encouragement from my family that I needed."

The common misconception people have and one of the biggest reasons people look down on art students is because they do not think artists make much money. "During class, one of my English professors here told me I was in a

field that wasn't going to make any money, said Jones. "People feel like artists don't make money and can't live off of their art and that's not the case at all. If you are putting your work out there, you're going to make money because people are going to find you." In reality, there are many ways an artist can make money. Jones sold her first painting in middle school to her math teacher and has sold many paintings since. Recently, she came up with a business like no other. "I just started decorating graduation caps last fall," said Jones. "My sister and brother were graduating at the same time and I decided to decorate their caps for them. Once I posted them on social media, people starting coming to me and asking me to do theirs and business started flowing in."

The problem with the way people perceive artists is that they don't understand how much goes into what an artist creates. Most people do not understand how much hard work, money, time and effort goes into producing a work of art. Which is why hardest job for an artist is pricing their work. "You don't want to go too high where people won't purchase it but you don't want

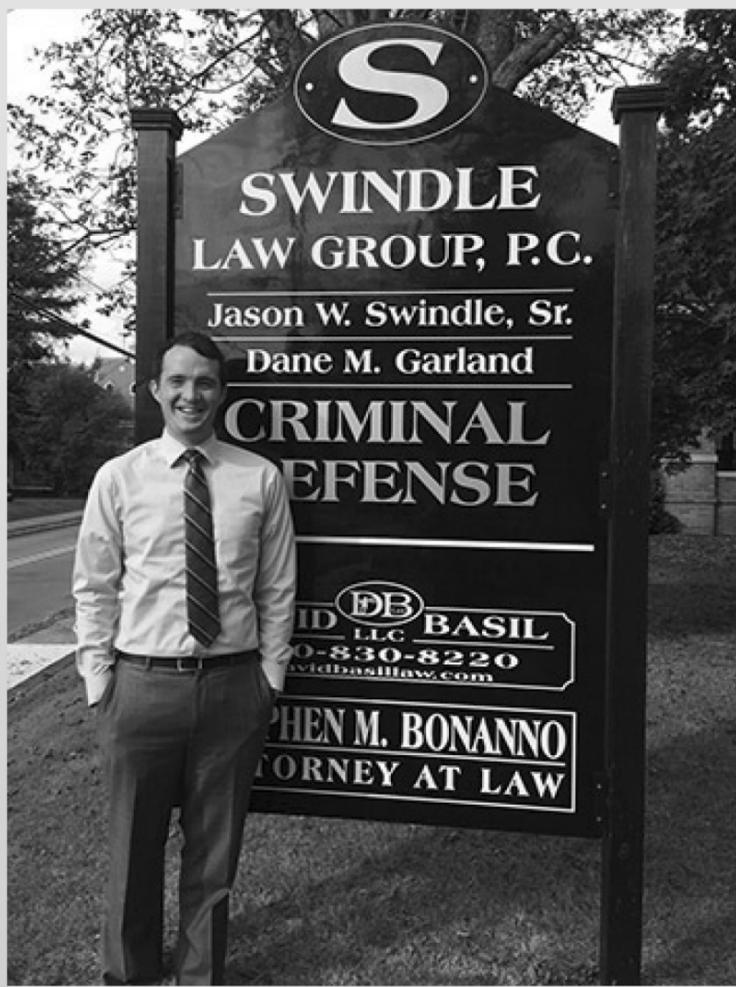
to go too low where you're devaluing yourself." Said Jones. Once artists finds themselves and realize their worth, the job becomes easier. "I've definitely had a few people tell me my paintings were too high and I've had people try to negotiate with me but once I learned my value and that you just have to stand your ground, I haven't had problems since."

While trying to deal with the judgment in the world, artists have to find ways to keep themselves motivated so they will not submit to the judgment that comes their way. "My faith in God keeps me motivated, I know that if I don't have anyone else supporting me, I have his ultimate support of my dreams, visions and the gift that he has given me." Jones faith helps her keep her eyes on her passion regardless of the way the world perceives it. People are so caught up in making money that they lose the joy in their career. Artists are different from most people because they don't let the materialistic ways of the rest of the world affect the way they feel about their art. "It's not all about the money for me. Art is my career because it's simply what I love to do."



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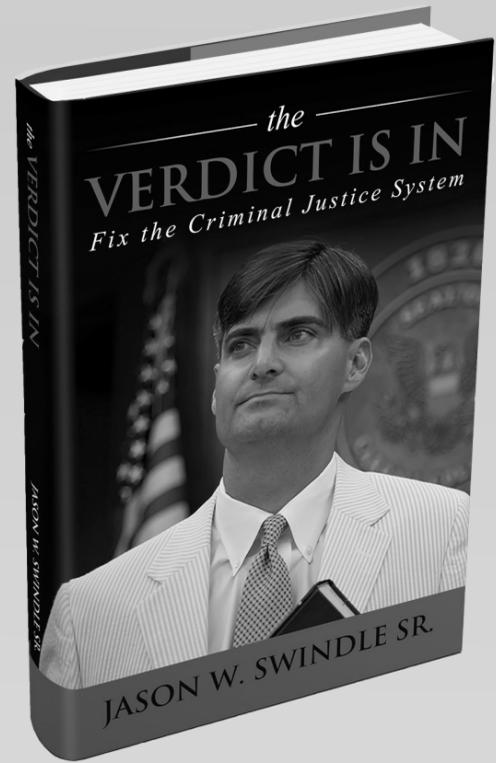
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The Shack

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The Shack is a faith-based film about a father, Mack, who is grieving a family tragedy. He receives a suspicious letter that leads him to go on a short trip to where the tragedy occurred, at the shack, hence the name. He then finds himself on a weekend retreat to "Heaven" with the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost. At this retreat he is helped through the difficult and scarring times he went through in his life. He also receives guidance from the Father, Son and Holy Ghost as he begins to do dig deep in his faith and beliefs.

Viewers who are strong in their faith will surely find the film more appealing than those who are not. The film is based around stories and key people from the Bible that more religious people would find more obvious than those who are not. The actors in the film did a great job at portraying the theme, emotion

and meaning behind this movie. The script on the other hand could have been stronger or more vibrant but with the help of the actors, the script was brought to life. The biggest weakness in this film is the graphics, specifically the ones when Mack is on his Heaven retreat.

The biggest downfall to The Shack is the graphics throughout the film. The major graphics do not take place until the second and third parts of the act structure, when Mack visits Heaven. The graphics seem subpar for the access editors have to graphic design. They appeared to be low budget when compared to many other films in the theatres today. For example, when Mack is walking on water with the Son it seems extremely unrealistic as well as the flourishing gardens that represent Mack's life. The graphics had room for improvement. The theme and story line make up for the graphics if the viewer is a fan of faith based films because the theme is overpowering and moving for religious viewers.

The notable actors in the movie included Sam Worthington, Octavia Spencer and Tim McGraw. The actor's emotions were clearly

portrayed and the viewers could feel the hurt and suffering that the family, and Mack specifically, were feeling in their parts. The writer also did a great job at creating a complete vision with no unanswered questions to leave the viewers pondering on what might happen next. Many movies follow a three-act structure, which includes the beginning, middle and end of a movie, and those were clearly defined in this film and flowed well. The wardrobe throughout the movie is also extremely fitting and was never overpowering the talented actors. The scriptwriter did a phenomenal job at portraying God in an unexpected way for the audience to relate with.

The themes were clearly depicted in this film, although they were not disclosed until the second act in the three-act structure. The themes, which were judgment and forgiveness, were tied in seamlessly with the script. Parts of the production design also helped to tie in the theme with certain scenes. For instance, when Mack was learning of judgment and how he judges others constantly the lighting was dark and took place in a cave.

When Mack learns of forgiveness and finally forgives the antagonist in the story, the scene takes place in the woods and there is a sense of peace surrounding him. The production team did a great job at carrying out the themes of the movie within each scene through lighting and props.

The Shack writer and producers were focused on its target market, which are religious viewers when creating this film. The director and scriptwriter made it clear that this is their primary market. Other viewers are secondary it seems after watching this film. The storyline and theme pulled at the audience's heartstrings while watching a father go through such a tragic time. The writer of The Shack did a great job at depicting the life and daily struggles of religious people, and was not afraid to dig deep into a dark and tragic story. The overwhelming sense of forgiveness throughout this film was moving and undeniable. The actors throughout the entire film depicted every emotion with an immense amount of skill and talent. The emotion and story line made up for the poor-quality graphics.



Photo Credit: Monica Sanders

WOLFSTOCK: Viva Las Wolf

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Thursday, April 15, The WOLF Internet radio hosted their annual one night music festival Wolfstock. Wolfstock happens every April, and is a celebration of the launch of The WOLF which was April 21, 2010. The first Wolfstock was April 2011 in Love Valley and marked the first birthday of The WOLF. This year's theme was Viva Las Wolf, Wolfstock lucky number seven to commemorate the station's seventh year in operation. Wolfstock has featured bands that have been on *America's Got Talent*, *The Voice*, and have a band this year that has performed at the Dogwood Festival, Park Tavern, and with iHeart Media. This year the first performer Tony OG will be performing with Atlanta-rapper Da'Brat.

Viva Las Wolf featured the festival's largest student based talent group. The event gives local, unsigned, independent and other up and coming performers a chance to perform on a larger scale. "Booking bands is difficult," said Shawn Isaacs, general manager of The WOLF. "We don't have a large budget. Most of our bands are volunteer based." The WOLF determines their performers from music submissions on their website. Although no monetary benefits are given to performers, the station offers a great return for artists. "We promise them lifetime airplay of their music on our station. We promise them exposure to college students, bigger exposure on a bigger stage," Isaacs continued. On average, 600 to 1,000 students show up to Wolfstock throughout the night. In addition to that, The WOLF gives performers free promotion on their social media, which they've recently been awarded best use of.

The WOLF has successfully hosted six Wolfstock festivals, and has overcome many obstacles. "There's a lot of challenges with

planning an event this big," said Isaacs. "Before when we were in Love Valley all the time, which is where we like to be, it's just difficult with Spring weather. One year it was super cold and it rained, one year it was just cold." As of lately The WOLF has been doing a variance of moving into the ballroom and having an outdoor stage in front of the Campus Center. This gives the festival an indoor and outdoor feeling as well as other benefits. "It's allowed us to get more bands and more stages," said Isaacs.

Despite the challenges that The WOLF faces, hosting an event like Wolfstock has amazing benefits not only for the performers but for students as well. "The most rewarding thing first and foremost is allowing the students that work at The WOLF and volunteer to experience this large scaled event," said Isaacs. "We've had students graduate and get jobs because they've done this event. One of our promotions directors got a job as an event coordinator at Melbourne Chamber of Commerce in Flori-

da due to her extensive work on Wolfstock." Large radio corporations put on events such as Wolfstock, so this further prepares Mass Communication students for the real world. "It gives them the experience that it's not all about being on a show or being on-air, it's about reaching the people," Isaacs continued. "Seeing everybody come in at the start of the event, the large lines, all the people enjoying themselves, laughing, having a good time and the music itself, that's the rewarding part."

To be involved with Wolfstock, the station asks that you join The Wolf, and have a basic grasp of radio operations. "We want everyone to be a member of The Wolf," said Isaacs. Instructions to become a member are listed on website TheWOLFUWG. Even if you do not work for the station you can sign up to be a WIT, which is a one semester training session. "We teach on-air, promotions, events and etc." If you're interested in performing at the next Wolfstock or joining The WOLF, check the basic info tab on the website.

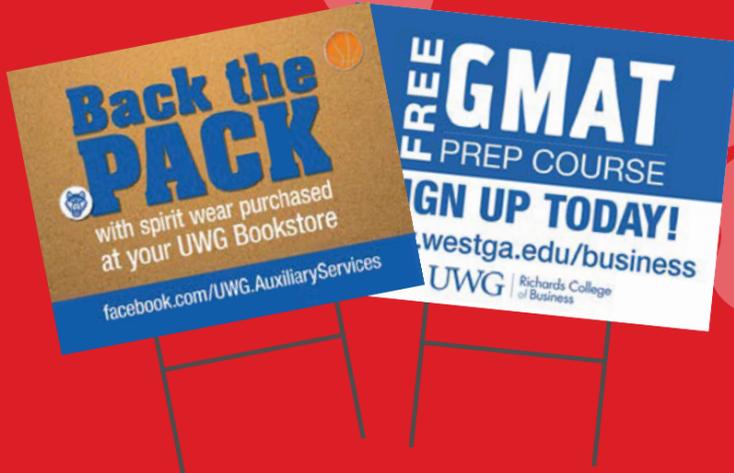
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