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Photo: Richard Shah, *The West Georgian*

Faculty Senators Concerned About UWG's Restructuring

By Alma Beauvais
Contributing Writer

Several faculty members voiced their concerns regarding the formation of the College of Arts, Culture and Scientific Inquiry during the virtual Faculty Senate meeting on Sept. 11.

Interim Provost, Dr. David Jenks explained that the debate on the reorganization of the former College of Arts and Humanities, former College of Social Sciences and former College of Science and Mathematics originated last April with all of the administrators. The largest concern wasn't the restructuring of the colleges themselves but how the restructuring was handled. Faculty senators pointed out the lack of faculty consultation in the decision-making process and expressed their disappointment in leadership for not giving them a voice when combining the departments within the new college.

"I think maybe what many of us are looking for is an acknowledgment on the part of the administration that, indeed, shared governance was not honored and was not sought in some of these big moves," said Faculty Senator Dr. Ben Geyer, Assistant Professor of Music Theory and Director of Jazz Studies. "And, I think that might be an important first step of reconciliation."

As part of the Executive Committee, UWG President Brendan B. Kelly briefly addressed the faculty's feeling of exclusion in the meeting, while Jenks provided the rationale behind the restructuring.

"We intentionally didn't do anything with faculty for those first four months," said Jenks. "Instead, we set up a framework so that when the faculty returned, we could engage a larger group of people, a larger committee to have further discussions."

Resulting from these further discussions was a report in which half of the administrators leaned toward the large combined college, while the other half wanted to stay with three separate colleges. However, there was one comment that helped sway the choice of the Executive Committee.

"Within that report there was one relatively powerful statement that said, 'What we truly need is a structure that will emphasize interdisciplinarity and build up structures in which innovative programming can build,'" said Jenks.

Jenks informed faculty that the decision made over the summer was in part due to the need for a budget cut caused by the pandemic. Every univer-

sity in the University System of Georgia had to undergo the same process.

"The budget reduction strategy that we used with the reorganization focused on administration largely," said Jenks. "And [it] tried to remove those administrative units that didn't affect instruction per se, not directly, but still maintained all of our academic programs and all of our academic faculty."

Before the meeting, the Executive Committee was able to review the concerns about the new strategic plan and the concerns about the permanent appointment of staff in leadership positions within the new school. However, the Executive Committee did not feel like they could properly respond to the concerns within the faculty meeting itself. Instead, the committee plans to better respond in writing. The written account will be documented and available to the faculty senators and everyone else at UWG.

"We want to make sure that the questions are answered completely thoroughly—taking the time to do that in a meaningful way—rather than trying to provide a response to a series of questions we've had for 48 hours in a Faculty Senate meeting," said Dr. Jenks.

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Officer McDowell: Bridging the Gap Between Police and Community

By Lily Head

Contributing Writer

UWG's Office of Civic Impact and Leadership hosted a hybrid event on Thursday, Sept. 17 for Constitution Day, which is celebrated every year by UWG with different presentations to commemorate the signing of the U.S. Constitution.

At the event, Carrollton Police Officer Michael McDowell led a presentation about how the Fourth Amendment protects people from unreasonable searches and seizures, and he also spoke about how the amendment translates to his profession. The event was held in-person with COVID-19 safety procedures put into place, and was also live-streamed for people who could not physically attend.

"We thought this was really important—not just for the purpose of Constitution Day—but for something that really speaks to our liberties as citizens," said UWG professor and Director of Civic Engagement, Chapman Rackaway. "This presentation is something that our students, faculty, staff and other members of the community should be able to see."

To start his presentation, McDowell thoroughly demonstrated the procedures that one should go through when getting pulled over or approached by a police officer. McDowell brought up several different situations that might happen during a traffic stop and demonstrated what to do in each situation. One particular situation that McDowell walked the audience through was how to tell an officer that you have a registered weapon in your vehicle. He explained Miranda Rights to the audience, which are the legal rights of an arrested person to have an attorney and refuse to answer questions.

"I came to speak today to specifically give students more knowledge about interacting with law enforcement," said McDowell.

McDowell also addressed the use of body cameras in the police force. He confirmed that officers who work for the Carrollton Police Department are required to wear body cameras at all times because of the department's policy. While demonstrating how body cameras work, McDowell emphasized the importance of body camera footage for both officers and civilians in situations such as traffic stops or arrests.

Information was given to the audience about what to do if they feel like their rights have been violated during a traffic stop or encounter with police. McDowell told the audience that if they feel like an officer violated their rights during an encounter then they need to contact the police department and make a formal, written complaint. McDowell also informed the audience that they can speak with a lawyer with full transparency about what occurred during the encounter.

"You have various options and tools that you can utilize if you feel like your rights were violated," said McDowell. "People just need to be given knowledge about the resources they have."

Transparency is a word that McDowell used several times and seems to be the theme of both his presentation and approach to his career. McDowell talked to the audience about how honest communication from both police officers and civilians during encounters can ensure that processes go smoothly. He spoke about the importance of police departments being involved and communicating with the local community to help bridge any gaps that may be present.

"It's all about communication," said McDowell. "I'm not a community enforcer, but I'm a community partner."

Citations issued for Underage Drinking in Adamson Square

By Reilly Robbin

Contributing Writer

A sweep of downtown Carrollton by police netted 23 citations for underage drinking.

Carrollton Police Department conducted a routine walk-through of the bars and restaurants on the square Thursday, Sep. 10. During the walk-through 23 underage drinkers were given citations, according to Carrollton Police Lt. Greg Falls.

The police department has received multiple complaints of underage drinking in Carrollton and on the square. The complaints are mainly derived from Carrollton locals. The Carrollton Police Department periodically does walk-throughs after a complaint is received.

"Walk-throughs are not just something we set out to do," said Carrollton Police Lt. Easterwood. "It is usually off of a complaint."

According to the police department, when conducting a walk-through it is "check one, check all" regarding an ID.

"No arrests were made after the walk-through," said Falls. "We mostly issued consumption underage (CUA) citations."

Falls expressed that in the past the police department has had calls regarding fights, which has been the outcome of underage drinking.

"Our mission is not to deter anyone from the square," said Falls. "It is just to keep the underage drinking

down and from causing problems."

The bars that were walked through on Thursday by police included Irish Bred Pub, Nama, Leopoldo's Pizza, Samba Loca, City Tavern and Plates On the Square. The police department does not think that the routine walk-throughs will have a negative effect on the restaurants and bars on the square, but it will help them in maintaining code.

Falls said that the sweep is something the police department does regularly, but the number of citations were higher than usual. Most of the citations were given to UWG students.

The police department's main goal is to keep those on the square and in Carrollton safe while being out.

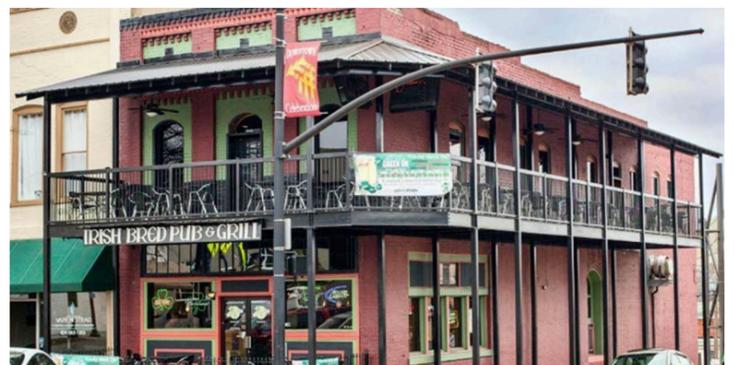


Photo courtesy of @irishbredpubcarrollton on Instagram

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Hannah Keown

Social Media Manager

Brittany Shivers

Editor-in-Chief

Taylor Jackson

News Editor

Maddie Wilbanks

Copy Editor

Richard Shah

Photographer

Jada Carswell

Webmaster

John Sewell, Ph.D.

Advisor

Andrew Slay

Graphic Designer

NEWS

Life During Wartime

President Brendan B. Kelly's Message of Hope

By Brittany Shivers
Contributing Writer



President Brendan B. Kelly joined UWG during the initial two-week suspension of classes last Spring when COVID-19 first hit. Since then, he has made numerous video messages to communicate and encourage faculty, staff and students during the pandemic. He has also enforced several COVID-19 guidelines in ensuring the safety of UWG students. Thankfully, he does not make these decisions alone because there is a hierarchical process. By understanding this process, students can equip themselves with the knowledge to feel safe and secure. They can know decisions are being made based on current scientific research instead of just being enforced for the sake of political gain.

“In complex organizations, decisions are made with input from the experts and thought-partners at the state and federal levels, including the University System of Georgia, as well as at the university level,” said Kelly. “All decisions on how to most effectively operationalize the guidance we have received from guiding agencies have been made through a collaborative effort involving all of these entities and, at our university, with input from students, faculty and staff.”

Informed guidance comes from several agencies with scientific expertise and/or experience with COVID-19 preparedness and response. These agencies include the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Georgia Department of Public Health, the University System of Georgia and the Office of the Governor of Georgia. After UWG receives this guidance, members of the UWG COVID-19 Response Team consult with the president of the university to make final guideline decisions. The Response Team is composed of faculty and staff from across the university's divisions.

Aside from the decision making process for COVID-19 guidelines, there are also concerns regarding the potential of the university to completely shut down

again. This disruption would once again change how students must operate in an educational environment. It would also impact the way students did their jobs on campus, if they could still work at all. However, UWG has shown adaptability that lowers the probability of completely shutting down.

“Based on our first few weeks, I am hopeful and optimistic that we will continue with dual modality for the balance of the semester,” said Kelly. “We have proven we can adapt to changing circumstances over the past six months.”

One message Kelly has emphasized over the course of the pandemic is the importance of UWG's ability to adapt. Students have had to relearn how to learn. Teachers have had to relearn how to teach, and leaders have had to relearn how to lead. One of those leaders is Kelly himself.

“Like all of us, I have had to adapt to quite a bit of change in a short amount of time,” said Kelly. “Starting as the university's president during the two-week suspension of instruction in the spring required me to adapt the way I work and how I communicate with constituents throughout the institution immediately.

“For instance, I continue to communicate broadly through video in order to meet people where they are,” continued Kelly. “We have adapted—and will continue to adapt—each and every day as the circumstances change.”

As the Talking Heads chorus cries out, “This ain't no party/this ain't no disco/this ain't no fooling around.” Those words are inescapable much like this pandemic, where hope, optimism and adaptability are essential to escape the panicky void of the pandemic mind, and that is exactly what Kelly wants UWG to cling to—hope.

“Over the past five months, I have found the University of West Georgia—and the communities to which we are in service—to be a truly special place: one filled with optimism and hope for the future,” said Kelly. “I believe we as a university will emerge from these circumstances more agile, more responsive to students' needs and certainly more adaptable to a changing world.”

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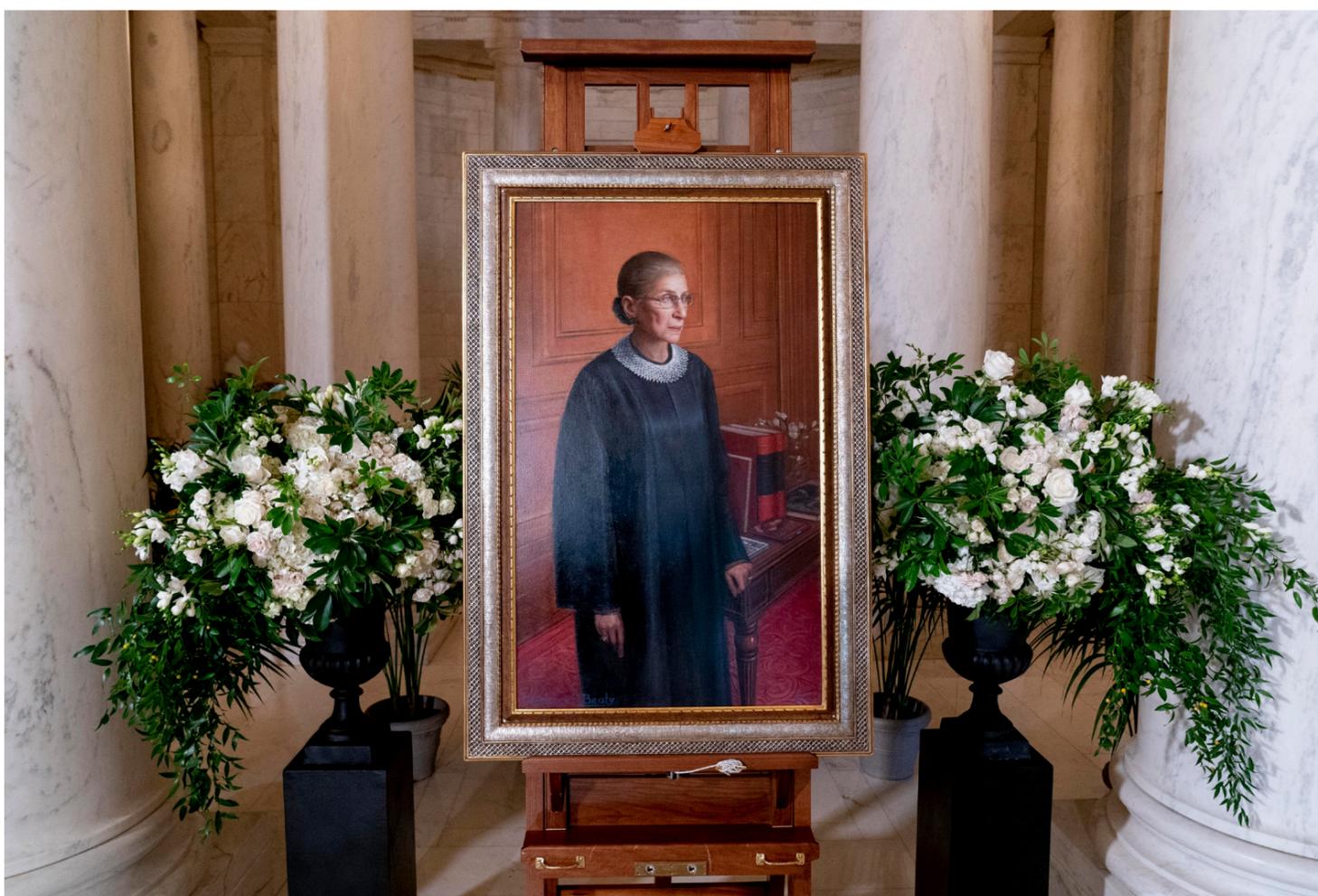


Photo courtesy of the Associated Press

Women in Politics: The Last Hundred Years

By Madeline Wilbanks
Contributing Writer

It was not until 1920 that women even received the right to vote. For many years after 1920 women, although they had the right to vote, still struggled to be able to receive their own credit cards, mortgages and receive equal pay. Supreme Court justice, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who recently passed away on Friday, Sept. 18, was one of the main figures that played a role in the pursuit of equality for women in the U.S. Now 100 years later, more women than ever are not only voting but also running for office. According to UWG political science professor, Karen Owen, more women are running for office. However, being elected into office is still an ongoing struggle.

“The challenges for most women involved in politics is that there is a double standard for which they have to run, so they have to find that balance,” said Owen. “They have to project themselves as having the capability and experience to serve in office.

“In this climate for 2020 women are facing the difficulty of a nation that is very divided over issues, and they have to determine where they find themselves in those issues,” Owen continued. “They also have to determine how they can bring that different perspective they have on the issues that are being addressed.”

Women in politics, as noted by Owen, have had struggles in the past of being taken seriously and being able to get their opinion across on certain issues. However, during this year female politicians have received a wonderful opportunity as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Although it is a difficult time for many, women in politics have been able to use this opportunity for their voice to be heard, as they are normally more knowledgeable in issues such as family and healthcare.

“It’s an issue (COVID) that they can have a very strong voice at the table on,” said Owen. “It relates so significantly to health and to family—issues that they have been typically stronger on and more vocal about.

“I think that it allows that different voice to be amplified in the conversations because COVID and the pandemic has shown how difficult it is for women,” Owen continued. “It is difficult for women when there are inequities in society, specifically inequities at the economic level and how those have been more pronounced. And so for women in politics, it allows them to really be able to stick to that perspective and they probably have more credibility in this conversation.”

Sen. Kelly Loeffler has been brought into the spotlight recently because she is up for election in November to keep her seat as a senator for Georgia. Loeffler is a republican, and holding office as a female republican senator is not something that is very common within the

political arena.

“Women on the right—so republican or women who hold conservative values—there are fewer of them who are actually serving in office nationally,” said Owen. “Identity politics has always been a part of the left and what the democrats have captured on, and historically, that has not been the same on the right.

“For Sen. Loeffler I would say that it’s not a rarity, but for Georgia it was the first time that a woman on the right was elected and appointed to the Senate,” continued Owen. “The interesting part of this election coming up will be whether Loeffler can provide a strong conservative credibility to the voters to where they want her to stay in office. I think for Loeffler’s situation, because she was appointed, it’s an even more difficult decision for her to explain why she should have the job now and why voters should support her.”

Although it is hard for Loeffler and many female politicians to win an election, there are still beneficial changes that have come to pass in the last 100 years for women in politics. These last few years have been a progressive shift for women in politics towards political equality and equal representation in office—a legacy that Ruth Bader Ginsburg helped to create.

“This year we have again seen an increase in the number of women running for office, which is phenomenal,” said Owen. “That means that more women are encouraged that they can participate. In 2018 we had more women run, and now in 2020 we are seeing even more women run, and that’s a good thing.”

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT



Photo courtesy of Katahj Copley

Leading the Pack

Katahj Copley Sheds Light Through Music

By Taylor Jackson
Contributing Writer

Music is everywhere. It plays on the radio, television and all social media platforms. But most importantly, music is in our hearts. It is an instrumental tool that brings people together. Music can express real life experiences in ways words never could.

Katahj Copley is a Music Composition and Education major at UWG expected to graduate in the Fall. He devotes his time to share the gift of music that resides in his soul.

“I am a person who practices what I want to be in life every day,” said Katahj. “I want to teach composition in colleges and universities.”

After Katahj graduates, he is prepared to continue making songs about contro-

versial topics. Although the pandemic has been troublesome for many individuals, Katahj seems unbothered. Instead, the pandemic has been pushing him to find himself in a more spiritual and artistic way. Currently he is working on two pieces: “Unspoken” and “Where the Sky Has no Stars.”

“One project I am proud of is my consortium piece ‘Unspoken,’” said Katahj. “The piece is written for young bands to perform and is dedicated to George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and the countless victims that have lost their lives to police brutality and systematic racism. For middle school children, there are not that many pieces that deal with heavy topics such as this.

“The piece uses the five stages of grief to show the emotions of these deaths and how I and many others have felt like our voices haven’t mattered,” continued Katahj. “Currently there are 100

schools signed on the “Unspoken” project.”

Both projects are very important to Katahj for many reasons. One being, he was not always in the place he is in right now.

“When I first got to the university, I was sort of a lost soul,” said Katahj. “I was not confident in my ability, and ultimately, I did not know myself.”

Aside from music, Katahj said one of the best decisions he made was joining the Kappa Kappa Psi Fraternity. There he met individuals that were not only interested in his social state of being but mental state as well, and each contributed to his life in a meaningful way.

“With the help of my big brother in the organization,

Casey Jones, I found myself and my confidence,” said Katahj. “With my little, Laney Bledsoe and Ashton Smeltzer, I discovered how to share.

“The organization helped me become a better person,” continued Katahj. “They gave me a chance when I did not give myself a chance. They taught me how to maximize myself and not take anything for granted.”

With all the highs and lows Katahj has faced, he has thought about giving up, but never acted on it. In fact, not long after joining the Kappa Kappa Psi Fraternity, Katahj experienced his first world premiere. The UWG’s Saxophone Ensemble led by Dr. John Bleuel was an opportunity for him to share his original music with others.

“The process was unreal and was a memorable experience that I will never forget,” said Katahj. “For that, I am always grateful.”



Photo courtesy of Katahj Copley

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT



Photo: Richard Shah, *The West Georgian*

Scene but Unseen

This is the third photo in our series Scene but Unseen, where we feature art, objects and strange things around the UWG campus. This flying turtle can be found in front of the Visual Arts Building.

These photos are also posted every Thursday on our Instagram @the_westgeorgian. If you take a picture with the objects and/or art featured in this series, post it to your Instagram or Twitter account with #scenebutunseen, and we may feature you on our social media!

Links to our Twitter and Instagram sites can be found at the very bottom of our website page, if you want to check it out.