

Go West, Go Wolves, Go Evan

Reagan Biddy

Contributing Writer
rbiddy1@my.westga.com

The University of West Georgia's admission staff has added a new Wolf to their team. At the beginning of the spring semester 2017, Evan Jaynes was deemed the new Associate Director of Admissions, and is specifically in charge of Campus Visits and Communications. This title includes overseeing preview days, University Ambassadors, daily campus tours, and tour guides. Jaynes previously worked in the First Year Experience Department at UWG starting the summer of 2015 as Coordinator of Orientation.

Jaynes holds a bachelor degree in business marketing and a minor in leadership studies from the University of South Florida. He then found his calling for student affairs and continued his education at Clemson University for graduate school. He had an experiential learning assistantship in the office of new student and family programs as the student leadership graduate assistant.

Jaynes graduated with a master of education, counselor education with an emphasis in college student affairs. After completing his graduate degree Jaynes was offered the position Coordinator of Orientation at UWG, which he described as the perfect job. Jaynes, now associate director of admissions, is excited about his new position in the office of admissions. He even has a few changes in mind for the ambassador program.

The key element that drew Jaynes to the University of West Georgia is its diverse campus population. Jaynes described his undergraduate institution, USF, as beautiful, not only aesthetically but also culturally. He did not find this same beauty at his graduate institution and that was when he realized that he needed this diversity that he grew up with. He felt as though he found that at UWG.

"I walked across campus (USF) and I would see people of all different creeds and colors and languages," said Jaynes. "I became very used to that so much that it only was when I was in an environment (Clemson University) where that wasn't the case, that I realized what I had. I need that diversity and different ways of thinking so, I wanted to get back to an institution that was more in line with that value." This allowed him to begin his search with an idea of what he wanted out of fu-



Photo: UWG

ture institutions.

"When I found this school (UWG) and I started looking into it, I thought 'Okay, this is a little bit more similar demographically to what I like'," Jaynes continued. "I needed to get back to something that was more diverse and had the differing ways of perspective, opinion and lifestyle."

All Jaynes wanted in life was to be a professional helper and he saw a career in student affairs as the perfect opportunity to get paid to do what he loved and build leaders.

He feels as if it was a combination of his minor in leadership studies, and undergraduate career of being an Orientation team leader at USF that lead him to his graduate studies in student affairs.

"(Student Affairs graduate programs) is a way to continue your education as well. A student affairs master's program typically couples their program with an experiential learning assistantship," said Jaynes. "That was very attractive to me, the idea that I could get a masters degree for very little money, go out of state, and begin my career as

a grad with a job. I didn't feel as if I was super called to be a businessman of any sort but I do feel called that I can make a difference in this field."

Jaynes is excited for his new job and is diving in headfirst. He has only been in this position for a month but does have a few ideas for campus visits, specifically the University Ambassadors.

"I feel that we can do a whole lot more with the ambassadors and the ambassador program. Not that we don't do a lot now," said Jaynes. "I just think that we could tailor training and potentially tailor the experience a little bit just to get more out of the ambassadors, and for the ambassadors to get more out of their experience. Also, really develop and have more of an impact on the entire campus community not just the admissions office."

Currently, ambassadors help with group campus tours, preview days, community service and other tasks within the admissions office. It seems as if we may see a lot more from the University Ambassadors in the near future.

Letter from the Editor

Daniel Forte

Editor-In-Chief
dforte1@my.westga.edu

The West Georgian is please to announce changes to the Editing Staff for Spring 2017. Daniel Forte has moved from News Editor to Editor-In-Chief and leads a team of three new editors.

Senior Nikole Gianopoulos has stepped up as News Editor after the sudden resignation of would-be News Editor Sarah McDaniel. Former Circulation Manager Robert Moody as well as senior Monica Sanders will fill the open Copy Editor

positions. Former Copy Editor Kate Croxton and Annierra Matthews were lost to graduation and former Editor-In-Chief Anndrea Ours has transferred to Georgia State University.

The same problems that faced former editors still apply to Forte's tenure: How can we keep the newspaper interesting and current while still appealing to the student body at UWG? What can we do to grow reader interest?

In addition to improving the quality of journalism, we also need some help from the student body. We want to know what is happening on and around campus. Do you have a club starting up? Send us an email. Did somebody just win an award? Send us an email. Did your department receive special accreditation? No matter what the

occasion is, please send us an email about it so we can send a journalist to cover the story. We want to be there representing you, the students.

Forte and Gianopoulos, the leaders of the West Georgian, are here to grow the paper and make it more interesting. This newspaper is a publication representing the student body of The University of West Georgia, and we want to hear from the students. Let us know what you find interesting or uninteresting and we will use that input to make a newspaper that all students can benefit from.

Thank you for your continued reading of The West Georgian,

Daniel D Forte

Greek Community Comes Together

Victoria Jones
Contributing Writer
vjones7@my.westga.edu

On Jan. 18, 2017, a prayer vigil was held for Austin Richardson, a UWG student whose life was taken on January 14, 2017. The service was organized by the members of Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity (TKE), and Kappa Delta Sorority. The event took place at the Greek Village basketball court with over 500 students and members of the Greek community in attendance.

Richardson was a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon and made a significant impact on his friends and family. More specifically, he impacted the Greek community in such a way that was expressed through the vast amount of support at the prayer vigil.

"I know that Austin found his family with TKE, but ultimately he found his family within this Greek

community," said Taylor Smith, a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon. "It speaks volumes for the community with this outpouring love and respect for someone that many of you hardly knew. I know in my heart that Austin is looking down and smiling because he made an impact here."

Greek Life is known to hold the title of many different opinions. Some may think of the Greek community as impractical or senseless. To others, Greek Life might mean unity or family. To the members of Tau Kappa Epsilon, the Greek community means much more through the bond that is shared within their tragic loss.

"Something that struck me about Austin is a particular instance that took place on initiation day," said Wesley Grace, also a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon. "Austin came up and hugged me and said we are family now. I told him that we were brothers for life."

Family is something that was very present in Richardson's

life. Not just his blood related family, but the family that he gained through the fraternity and the Greek community as a whole.

"Tonight I just want to thank everyone for being here because Austin is not just our family, but we are all his family in Greek life," Grace continued. "This is what Greek life is all about and this is what brotherhood and sisterhood is. Tonight we are family."

While on his way home from work, Richardson's life was taken by a drunk driver, Tulia Eustache, who hit Richardson head-on around 7:00 p.m. Richardson passed away at the scene, while Eustache was taken to a nearby hospital with non-life threatening injuries. The family of Richardson hopes that his loss will serve as a reminder to say no to driving after drinking.

"I know the college life is all about having fun and school is in there somewhere, but just make sure that when you are out having fun that if you cannot drive, do not

drive," said Richardson's father. "The person who took my son's life should have known better. It is the worst thing that could ever happen to a family."

Richardson used his involvement in Tau Kappa Epsilon as a way to regain his happiness through a tough time at home. He was able to develop strong friendships and become his usual positive, genuine self again.

"Being a part of this fraternity was so important to Austin," said Richardson's mother. "When he entered into the fraternity it was a tough time in our household and the fraternity became his family and it meant everything to him. It turned his life around and he was able to laugh again."

The prayer vigil ended with everyone lifting up their candles and taking a moment of silence as one last tribute to Austin Richardson, a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity and a smiling face to those who love him most.

A Night to Remember

Nikole Gianopoulos
News Editor
ngianop1@my.westga.edu

This is the second year in a row that University of West Georgia student, Scottlin Smith, has helped young ladies fulfill their prom dreams by providing gowns and accessories to those could not afford the cost.

Belles of the Ball service event will be held on Saturday, Feb. 11 in the Campus Center Ballroom from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Smith created this event in an effort to make prom an enjoyable experience for all young ladies regardless of their financial situation.

"Prom was one of the best days of my high school career, so it made me feel horrible to think that some people would not be able to have that same experience," said Smith.

Gowns can cost upwards of \$400. Once the price of hair, make-up and nails are factored in, the overall cost of prom can get extremely expensive. Smith is aware that some people simply cannot afford that cost and began her search for dresses.

"I had four dresses in my closet that I knew I could give away free of charge," said Smith. "Some girls were unable to fit in those dresses, so I reached out to my friends to try to find them one. Sometimes I would be searching for dresses until the actual day of prom."

Last year, Belles of the Ball was held in Smith's hometown of Cartersville, GA. Over 150 dresses were collected and nearly 50 girls left the event with a gown that year. Many of those same girls have asked Smith if they could volunteer at this year's event. As a way of promoting higher education and her University, Smith decided to move the event's location to UWG.

"When you come from a low socio-economic background, education isn't always at the top of your priority lists," said Smith. "I want these ladies to get the feel for a college campus. Most of those come to the event are juniors and seniors in high school, so it's time to get them thinking about life beyond high school."

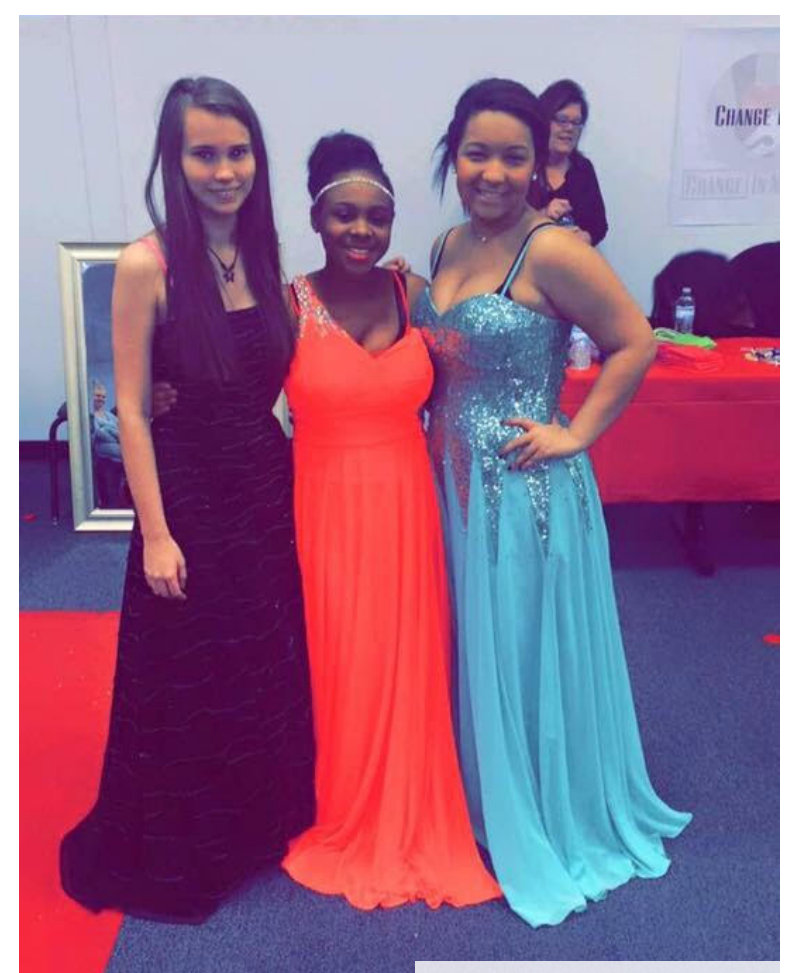
The girls will be able to pick out and try on dresses while listening to music and being served snacks and drinks. Once a girl selects her dress then she will have the chance to walk down the famous red carpet. Smith revealed that some girls are too shy to walk the carpet, so she walks down it with them.

"You can tell a difference on the girl's faces when I encourage them to model their gowns," said Smith. "I hope they carry that confidence with them as they move forward in their life journey."

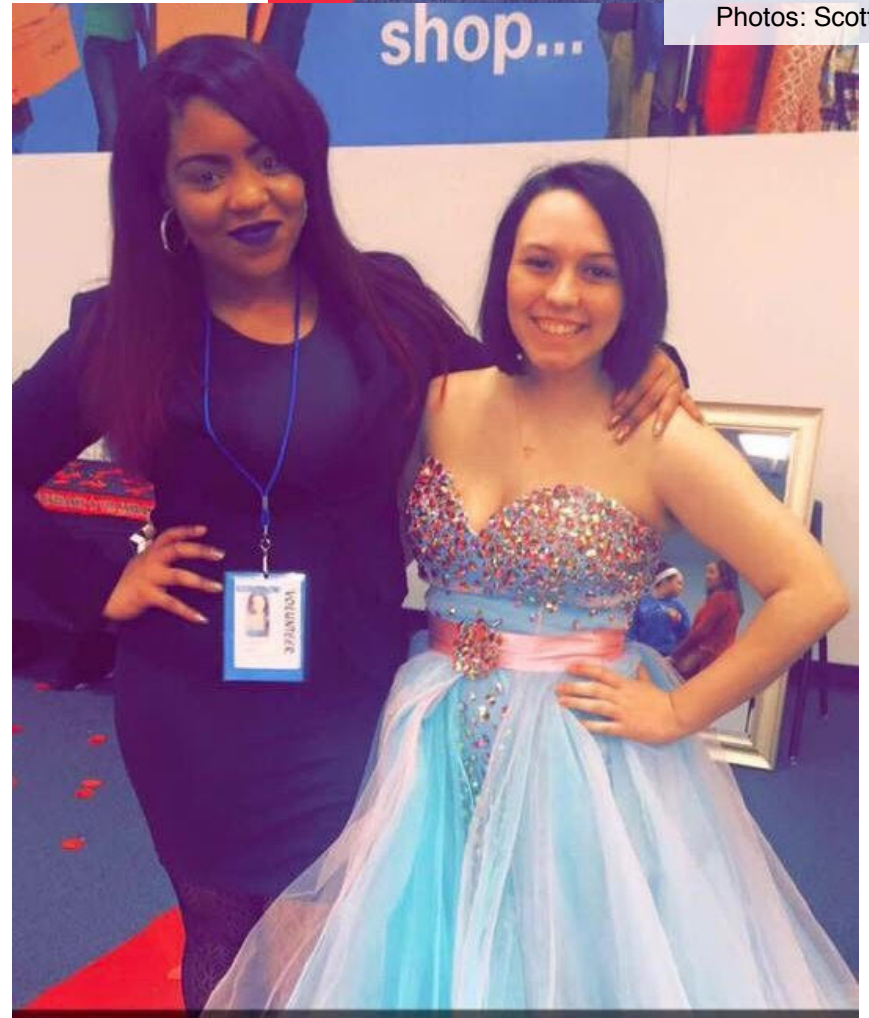
In addition to gowns and accessories, Smith also collects vouchers that have been donated to her by salons. These vouchers give the girls the chance to get their hair, makeup and nails done the day of prom. Smith tries to ensure that no one leaves the event empty handed.

"I want to make young girls feels just as beautiful on the outside as they are on the inside," concluded Smith.

If you would like to donate a dress or find out more information about this event, please contact Scottlin Smith by email at ssmith80@my.westga.edu.



Photos: Scottlin Smith



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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.

THE WEST GEORGIAN

Nikole Gianopoulos
NEWS EDITOR

Bree Thompson
GRAPHIC DESIGN EDITOR

Monica Sanders
COPY EDITOR

Daniel Forte
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Ze'Nia Middlebrooks
ADVERTISING MANAGER

John Sewell, Ph. D.
ADVISOR

Robert Moody
COPY EDITOR

Shaunna Conner
WEBMASTER

TBA
CIRCULATION MANAGER

The University of West Georgia
University Community Center, Room 111
Carrollton, GA, 30118-0070
Editorial Line: (678) 839-6527
Advertising Manager: (678) 839-6588
Editorial E-mail: uwgeditorinchief@gmail.com
Advertising E-mail: uwgads@gmail.com

Online at:
www.thewestgeorgian.com

living west

UWG's Student Externship Program

Jessica Lord

Contributing Writer
jlord1@my.westga.edu

The University of West Georgia has brought back their student externship program. This exciting opportunity gives students a valuable experience to step foot into their future career field for a week during spring break.

The Student Externship Program was created in partnership with the University of West Georgia Career Services department and the university's Alumni Relations. This program is a unique career development program designed for students to explore their career field during the week of spring break. Megan Tait, the Assistant Director of Student Employment and Experiential Learning, believes this is a great program that benefits students in every way.

"This program allows students to get a fulfilling intern experience during a shorter period of time. They gain knowledge and skills that will carry on through their career," Tait said.

The first step is getting employers and professionals to commit and become sponsors for the program. These sponsors vary each year, but include many local employers such as Southwire. The list of sponsors grows each year as more employers become aware of the

program. The lists of employers are then marketed out to the students who are interested in participating. Not only do students reap the benefits of taking part in this program, so do the sponsors themselves. Spending a week with the student intern, allows for the sponsor to market their organization and company. They also have the opportunity to help the intern make career decisions, teach them, give them real world experience and skills. Sponsors could find their future employees through their partnership with the university.

Once students apply to the program and are accepted, they then go through interviews just as if they were applying for a job. After this, stu-

dents get the opportunity to choose their top three professionals they would like to be matched with for the week. After the set of interviews, students are matched with an employer, professional and or UWG alumni that best fit their future career field. Many students on campus were excited to hear about the opportunity. Students are always looking to find ways to get involved and get their foot in the door. While the externship is unpaid, it allows for students to get an insider's view into what they could step into after graduation. While deciding the path a student wants to take after graduation can be a difficult task, this career development opportunity gives students a chance to explore,

gain knowledge and help guide them to a decision about their future.

"The best way to experience what you might want to do is to just dive right in and get some hands-on experience," Tait said. "This is a great opportunity for our students to get in there and spend a week with what they might be interested in and want to do as a career."

There are over 44 opportunities coming from 30 different companies for students in this year's program. The University of West Georgia's Career services website has information on the many ways to get involved with the Student Externship Program as either a sponsor or a student.



Photo: Career Services

UWG Stands Against Islamophobia

Monica Sanders

Copy Editor
msander9@my.westga.edu

On Thursday, Jan. 26, the Center for Diversity and Inclusion hosted their third installment in their Conversation in Culture series titled, "American Muslim Experience, and Islamophobia." Students and staff of different ethnicities and religious backgrounds gathered to listen to and engage in the conversation. Edward Ahmed Mitchell, attorney and the executive director of the Georgia chapter of CAIR (Council of American-Islamic Relations), was the keynote speaker.

"Media hostility, hate speech, illegal discrimination, these are things that American Muslims face pretty regularly," said Mitchell. "Seeing people speak about Islam as if they know what they're talking about when they don't is very frustrating. When you turn on the T.V. and you see someone speak to millions, saying nonsense about my faith, it's very upsetting."

After news broke of the new immigration ban of Muslim majority countries such as Iraq, Iran, Sudan and Syria, protesting began to ensue at U.S. airports nationwide.

"American citizens who are Muslim, or who look Muslim, are being detained at the airport and questioned for hours," said Mitchell. "Questions such as which mosque do you attend, which sect do you belong to, and other questions that are none of the government's business. As Americans, we have the right to put our foot down and say, Hey, I'm not answering these questions, and let me in the country," Mitchell continued. "In terms of International immigration there's not a lot we can do there. As terms of protecting people already here, there are a lot of legal avenues to do that."

Despite the current political climate and tensions Mitchell remains hopeful.

"Interfaith dialogue and academic dialogue is so important. The chance for dialog allows use to break down barriers and to build bridges," said Mitchell.

CAIR was founded in 1994 to fight anti-Muslim discrimination, to deliver speeches and to set up interfaith discussions to clear up misconceptions of Muslim people.

"A lot of people who dislike Muslims are not bigots or evil people, they're just misinformed," said Mitchell. "Education is the best vaccine for discrimination."

New church opens on Campus

Robert Moody

Copy Editor
rmoody1@my.westga.edu

On Jan. 1, Christ The King Church officially opened as it held its first Sunday morning service in the Baptist Collegiate Ministries building beside the Townsend Center for the Performing Arts. The success of the launch was due in part to the months of preparation and work done by the core launch team and planting pastor Kirk Richeson.

Richeson has been a resident of Carrollton since he began his undergraduate studies at the University of West Georgia in the Fall of 2004. Shortly after marrying his wife in 2012 he began his Masters program at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary where he earned his degree in North American Church Planting. He also served on staff at Glenloch Baptist Church as associate pastor until the launch of Christ The King Church in January of 2017.

Christ The King Church started off nearly four years ago as a small bible study that met in the Richeson's living room by the name of Gospel Community. As time passed the crowds grew in number forcing the study to move from a small living room to larger locations such as local art studios until the group began meeting in the BCM on campus last year. It was announced in the summer of 2016 that Gospel Community would change its name to Christ The King and launch as a church on campus at the beginning of 2017.

Reaching students on campus is important to many local churches and is also a very important goal of Christ The King Church. "We live in a college town, and while we are not a church just for college students we know that within city limits this is a larger portion of the population," said Richeson. "For students that are coming to Carrollton from the outside we want to be here to disciple them, train them, and equip them to reach their dorms, apartments, and campus with the Gospel, before sending them out into the world to live as missionaries."

Some of the goals that have been laid before the church include training others through Biblical teaching, planting other churches, serving the people in the local community, and displaying diversity through the fellowship of the congregation. By doing these things the hope is that the church will fulfill its mission statement, "We exist for the glory of God and for the good of others."

Christ The King Church meets on Sunday mornings at 11 at 201 West Georgia Drive.

news

Berkeley campus chaos spurs questions at free-speech Bastion

Jocelyn Gecker

Associated Press

The chaos at the University of California, Berkeley, was shocking: Protesters set fires, smashed windows, hurled explosives at police and ultimately achieved their goal of canceling an appearance by right-wing provocateur Milo Yiannopoulos.

The scene gained worldwide attention not just because of the mayhem but because of where it took place. UC Berkeley is the birthplace of the free-speech movement and has been known for more than a half-century as a bastion of tolerance.

As the university cleaned up Thursday, it struggled with questions about why the violence spun out of control and what has happened to the open-minded Berkeley of the 1960s.

“It was not a proud night for this campus,” school spokesman Dan Mogulof said, later adding, “We are proud of our history and legacy as the home of the free speech movement.”

Officials knew there was a potential for violence and went to “extraordinary lengths” to prepare for the event, Mogulof said in a statement. But school authorities say

they believe the instigators were not Berkeley students.

Berkeley was the last stop on Yiannopoulos’ college tour, which had sparked protests and sporadic violence around the country. He is a vocal supporter of President Donald Trump and a self-proclaimed internet troll whose comments have been criticized as racist, misogynist and anti-Muslim.

Dozens of police were called to Berkeley from nine UC campuses. The student union where the talk was scheduled was locked down hours before the event. Layers of metal barricades were erected around the building with riot police standing guard inside.

But Mogulof said what transpired Wednesday night was unprecedented.

The protests started peacefully around 4 p.m. As night fell, the crowd swelled to more than 1,500, police estimated, and “more than 100 armed individuals clad in ninja-like uniforms who utilized paramilitary tactics” infiltrated the crowd and began hurling commercial grade fireworks, Molotov cocktails, rocks and other objects at police, Mogulof said.

They toppled the metal barricades and used them to bash windows of the student union and then set fire to a kerosene generator,

sparking a blaze that burned for over an hour.

Later that night, after the crowds dispersed, a small group took the chaos off campus and into the nearby city streets of Berkeley.

Workers at several banks downtown were replacing broken windows Thursday, repairing damaged cash machines and cleaning graffiti from brick walls.

Amid the cleanup, a 21-year-old student who supports Trump was brazenly attacked on campus. The student, Jack Palkovic, was wearing a “Make America Great Again” cap as he headed to class when a white SUV slammed to a halt, and two students jumped out and pummeled him. Police arrived and arrested both men.

Many students shook their heads at the violence and what it means at a place like Berkeley.

“Berkeley has always stood for self-expression,” said Russell Ude, a 20-year-old football player. “Things like this discredit peaceful protest.”

Freshman Grace Schnetler, 18, said she worked hard in high school to attend Berkeley and was upset outside demonstrators were diminishing the campus’ reputation for free speech and tolerance.

“On the other hand, I don’t

know why he picked Berkeley,” Schnetler said about Yiannopoulos. “What kind of reception did he expect?”

The unrest sparked a debate Thursday on the floor of the state Senate, where Republicans bemoaned what they characterized as a campus culture that devalues free speech.

“Universities should be the most open, the most welcoming harbor of all ideas, left or right,” Republican state Sen. Ted Gaines said. “But they have turned into rigid ideological prisons where stepping outside the latest progressive liberal path is considered a thought crime.”

The comment was echoed in a tweet by Trump who questioned whether Berkeley should be granted federal funding: “If U.C. Berkeley does not allow free speech and practices violence on innocent people with a different point of view - NO FEDERAL FUNDS?”

Democrats condemned Trump’s tweet, saying administrators worked hard to facilitate the speech and only canceled it once the security became untenable.

“Today, it’s academic freedom,” Democratic state Sen. Scott Wiener said. “Tomorrow, Lord knows what it’s going to be, and it has to stop.”



ATTENTION LIFEGUARDS

The Carrollton Parks and Recreation Department is in need of part time lifeguards for this upcoming summer. Red Cross Certified Lifeguards and CPR certifications are preferred, however that is not required. We do offer our own CPR/Lifeguard classes. If interested, please contact Brody Lively at lively@carrollton-ga.gov



ATTENTION SWIMMERS

The Carrollton Bluefin Swim Team is looking for qualified assistant coach to work with swimmers from the ages 6 to 18 years old. All applicants must have a background in competitive swimming to be considered and must pass a background check along with a drug test.

The Bluefin Swim Team is a year round, indoor competitive swim program sponsored by the Carrollton Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Department (CPRCAD). The Bluefin Swim Team is a Carrollton tradition that has provided quality swim instruction since 1968.

Our goal for the team is to develop physical fitness in our youth by providing quality swim instruction that promotes good sportsmanship and team spirit in all levels of competitive swimming.

If interested, please contact John Pepper or Morgan Leahey at 770-832-1134 or email at bluefinswimming@gmail.com

news

Snap, maker of the teen social app Snapchat, files for IPO

Barbara Ortutay
Associated Press

The company behind Snapchat, a teen-oriented social network famous for its quickly disappearing messages, has filed for what could be one of the largest tech IPOs in years.

Snap Inc. said Thursday that it's seeking up to \$3 billion in an initial public offering, a figure that could shift based on investor demand. That demand will help determine the price per share sought by Snap in the upcoming weeks.

Snapchat has millions of users, and Snap has built a thriving ad business on it. But the company has also made a lot of money - nearly \$900 million - disappear in the past two years.

SNAP, CRACKLE, POP
The fast-growing social network for the younger set boasts 158 million daily users. It lets people send photos, videos and messages that disappear a few seconds after viewing. It was created in 2012 by Evan Spiegel, who dropped out of Stanford University just three classes shy of graduation to focus on the

app.

Spiegel, 26, is poised to become a multibillionaire, along with his former fraternity brother at Stanford, Robert Murphy, 28, who is also a company co-founder.

Each man owns 227 million shares of Snap stock, which was valued at \$30.72 per share nine months ago when the company raised \$700 million from a group of investors, according to its IPO documents filed Thursday. If Snap can fetch the same price in its IPO, Spiegel and Murphy each will be worth \$7 billion.

Snapchat could have died a quick death as a "sexting app," but Spiegel showed a knack for adapting to users' whims and demands, just as Facebook has over the years. This, as both companies have discovered, is key to outlasting social media fads. Snapchat is no longer just about disappearing messages.

Over the years, it has added a "Discover" section where a diverse group of publishers - including People, the Wall Street Journal, CNN, Vice and Food Network - post video-heavy stories aimed at millennials.

Another feature, "Stories," lets people create a narrative from messages, videos and photos from

the past 24 hours. It's so popular that Facebook's Instagram now has a version of it, too.

And then there's goofy "Lenses," which lets people add animated overlays to photos and videos - animals, for example, or flower crowns and sparkly eyes. The company came under fire a couple of times for adding filters many saw as racist. One had slanted eyes and buck teeth commonly associated with negative Asian caricatures; another, which Snap called a "Bob Marley" filter, darkened people's skin. Snap later got rid of the offending filters.

BIG MONEY

The highly anticipated IPO is expected to be the one of the largest since Alibaba Group went public in 2014. But Snap is better known than the Chinese e-commerce company, and so draws comparisons to the IPOs of Facebook and Twitter. Facebook raised \$16 billion when it went public in 2012.

If its IPO matches the \$30.72-per-share price obtained in its last round of financing, Snap would have a market value of about \$30 billion, based on the quantity of outstanding stock listed in its IPO documents.

Investors who snap up the IPO will be taking a gamble on a Los Angeles-based company that has lost \$1.2 billion so far while growing rapidly. Snap had revenue of \$404.5 million in 2016, up from \$58.7 million in 2015. Its net loss was \$514.6 million last year, up from \$372.9 million the year before.

Facebook, on the other hand, was profitable in 2011, the year before its IPO, with net income of \$1 billion. Twitter has never turned a profit.

Snap stockholders must also evince near-complete trust in the business acumen of Spiegel and Murphy. The co-founders will have controlling power over all matters at Snap through a special class of stock that gives them 10 votes for every share they own. The stock being sold in the IPO has no voting power, while another class has one vote per share.

The discriminating classes of stock designed to give final say to the company founders is similar to setups at Facebook, where CEO Mark Zuckerberg holds all the power, and Google parent Alphabet, where Larry Page and fellow co-founder Sergey Brin can override all other shareholders.

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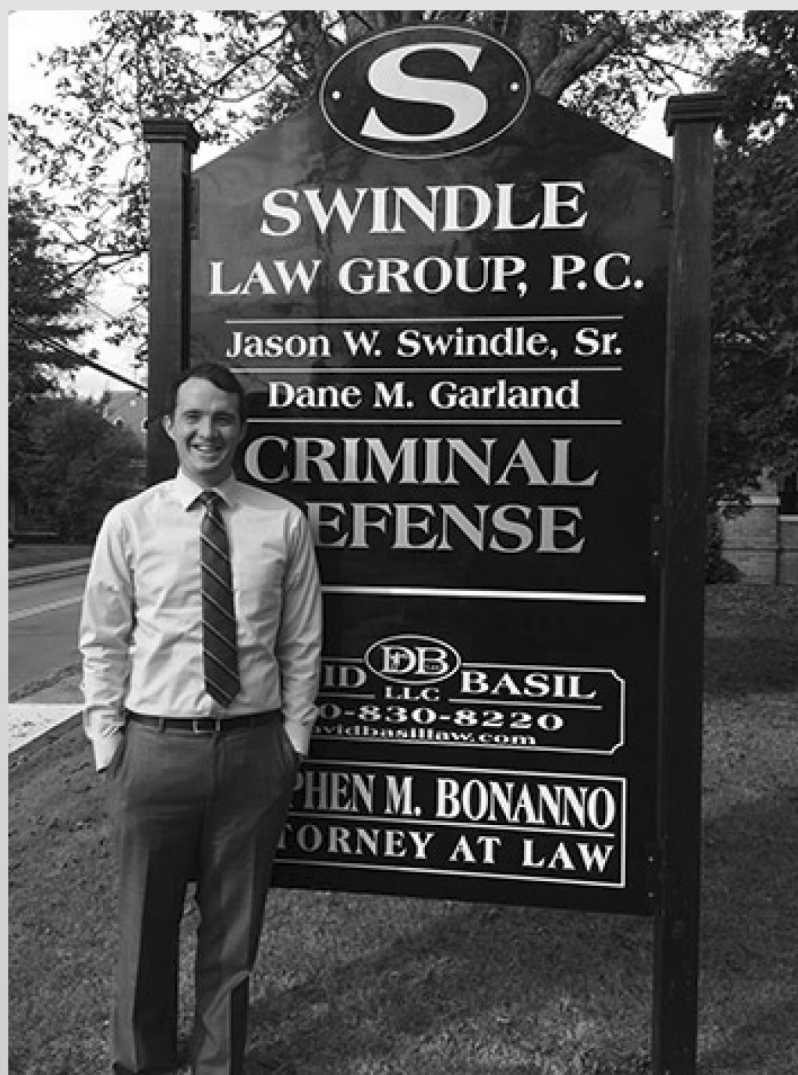
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Jason W. Swindle Sr. (770) 836-8332 jason@swindlelaw.com www.swindlelaw.com
310 Tanner Street Carrollton, GA 30117

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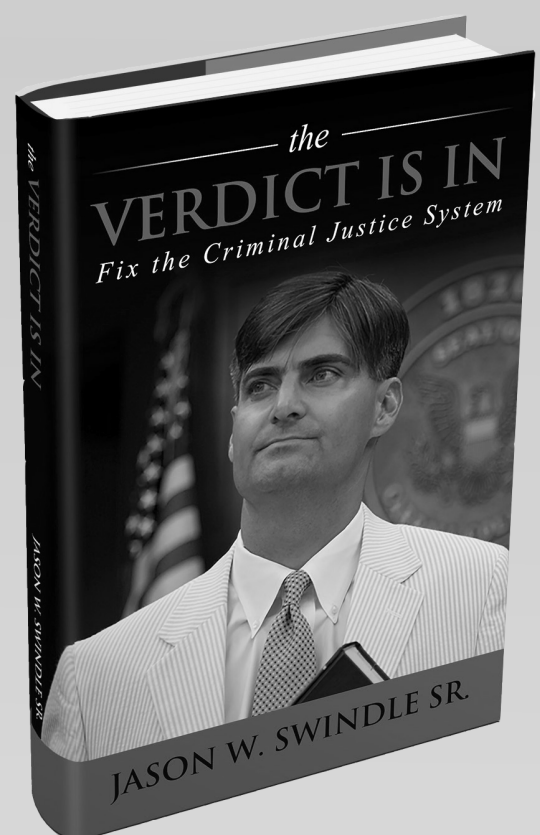
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sports

David Dean returns to UWG as football head Coach

Jayla Belt
Contributing Writer
jbelt1@my.westga.edu

The University of West Georgia wasted no time finding a new head coach for the football team. On Wednesday, Jan. 25, David Dean was announced the 12th head coach at the university after the previous head coach, Will Hall, accepted the offensive coordinator position at the University of Louisiana-Lafayette.

“He was destined to move on to the next level and we are proud of him and his accomplishment with moving on to Louisiana-Lafayette,” said Kyle Marrero, UWG President.

The wolves welcomed Dean with a meet-and-greet event at the UWG Coliseum. “We spent a lot of time on the third floor of the sky box working with some outstanding candidates,” said Daryl Dickey, UWG Athletic Director. “In the end, there was no doubt about the decision that we needed to make, the direction that we needed to go, and who we needed to go there with.”

Dean explained how he is thankful for the opportunity and thrilled to be back at West Georgia in the Gulf South Conference. “I want to thank Dr. Marrero and Coach Dickey for having the confidence and the faith in me to step into this position now to lead this great team as we continue on at the national level,” said Dean. “I am proud to be a part of West Georgia football again.”

Dean already had experience with being a part of the West Georgia football program which helped with the decision of making him the head coach. He was an assistant coach from 1992-1999. He joined UWG as the running back coach, which is now

known as special team’s coordinator. Dean then served as the offensive coordinator his last two years at West Georgia. Dean believes he has the winning formula to help add another national championship title to the football program. “Those things that we preach, those things that we coach, and those things that we teach on a weekly basis are going to pay off, which could lead us to our next conference national championship,” said Dean. Dean plans for the team to be physical, play extremely hard, fast and enjoy playing the sport.

With being a coach for 29 years, he participated in the Division II playoffs 16 times. Dean won the Gulf South Conference NCAA Division II national championship as an assistant coach with the Valdosta State Blazers in 2004. As the head coach of the Blazers, Dean won 2 national championship titles in 2007 and 2012. He resigned as head coach in 2015. He was named the American Football Coaches Association Regional Coach of the Year both times he won the national championship. Dean was also named Gulf South Conference

Coach of the Year.

During the meet-and-greet, Dean explained that he wanted to come back to West Georgia to help continue building on a tradition that began many years ago. “The most important thing to me was the former players that contacted me saying we want you to be a part of that again,” said Dean. “They were very influential in me starting to pursue this job.

“I am honored and truly humble to be here,” Dean continued. “I was a West Georgia Brave; now I’m a West Georgia Wolf. Go Wolves!”



Photo: Jared Boggus

arts & entertainment

UWG hosts the annual 2017 Juried Student Art Exhibition Reception

Garrett Shea
Contributing Writer
gshea1@my.westga.edu

The annual Juried Student Art Exhibition Reception took place on Thursday, Jan. 26 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., at the University of West Georgia. Current UWG students were encouraged to submit their artwork to be displayed to the public. This reception was only the beginning of the Juried Student Exhibition, which carries from January 26th through March 2nd in the Bobick Gallery and Gallery 2 in the Humanities Building. Many of the pieces are up for sale to the highest bidder, providing the opportunity for students to be rewarded for their artwork.

“Every year we select an independent juror to pick the work that they think is the strongest work that best represents the university,” said Stephanie Smith, who is a Lecturer at the University of West Georgia as well as gallery director. “We get gallery curators, museum workers, independent artists and people that work for non-profit art organizations, professionals in the field to review the work and pick out the strongest and the pieces that they like the best.”

This year, UWG had the honor of selecting Yu-Kai Lin who is the director of Kai Lin art gallery, located in Atlanta to be the 2017 Juried Student Art Exhibition Juror. Lin spends a lot of his time in art exhibitions and deeply focuses his attention on emerging artists. A graduate from Emory University, Lin

is heavily involved in the art scene in Atlanta and spends much time collecting art to be displayed in his gallery. Some of his most famous, Atlanta based collaborations are with The High Museum of Art, The Atlanta Botanical Garden, Turner Broadcasting, and Coca Cola.

Several awards and prizes were chosen and selected by Lin and given to the artists with artwork that is deemed the best. These awards included, first, second, third place, best in show as well as merit prizes.

“It’s really exciting and students can win awards that help them cover the cost of making more artwork,” explained Smith.

The reception was full of people of all ages ranging from students to senior citizens. The artwork was displayed in the first and second floor galleries. People visited both floors to observe the pieces of art, which varied from paintings to sculptures.

“It’s a great opportunity for students to exhibit their artwork to the public as well as get professional experience in how to frame and represent their work,” said Smith.

The Juried Student Art Exhibition is an opportunity for students to express themselves through the use of visual art, as well as compete with one another to win various prizes and awards. With the newly added sculptures and paintings on and around campus, UWG and the Carrollton community seem to be making a conscious effort to increase their art presence. This exhibition helps UWG artists contribute to that art presence in their own unique and special way, and allows them an opportunity to get their work seen and recognized.



Photo: Garrett Shea

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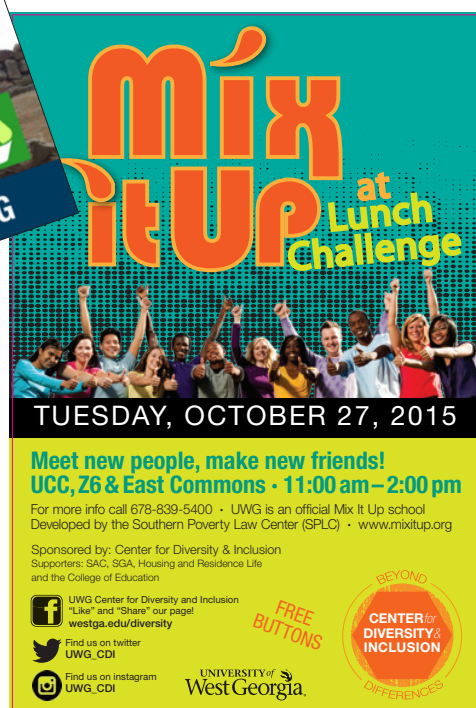
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located to the right of the entrance to Aycock Hall.
NO CASH, Please!

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