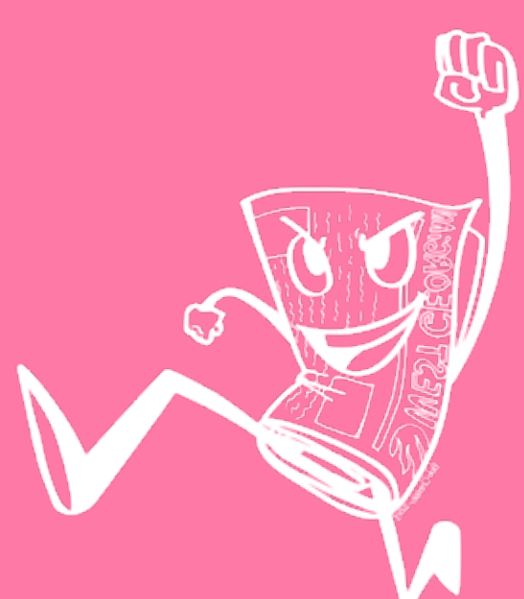


The West Georgian

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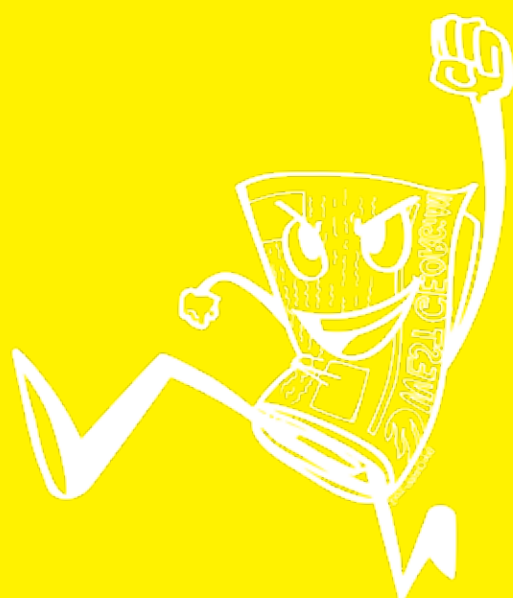
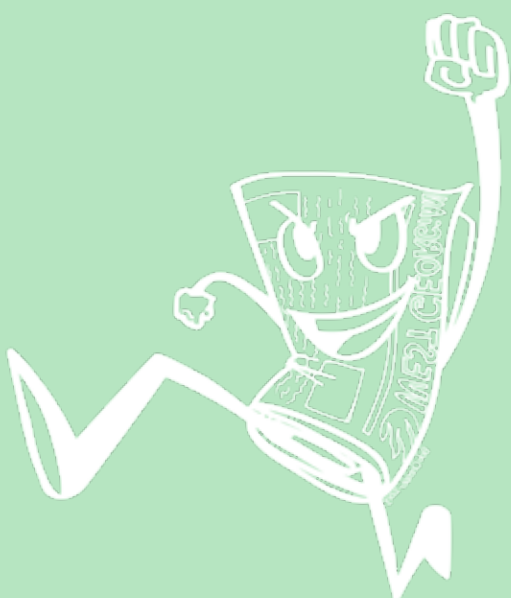
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Learning Together: *Connecting Veterans and Students*

Anne Holmes

Contributing Writer

UWG honored its military students and veterans with a Veteran's Day Ceremony on Nov. 7th.

Held by the Center for Adult Learners and Veterans, or CALV, the event gave the opportunity for non-military students to hear from their military peers.

Justine Furr, a veteran student and Student Assistant at the CALV, was among three panelists speaking with students, staff and faculty and answering questions about military student life. As a psychology major, Furr has benefited from being a part of the CALV.

"I have a nice, quiet space to do any work," said Furr, a medically-retired Senior Airman of the United States Air Force. "I can come to any staff member at the CALV for assistance with resources or questions about my classes. Also, I can come to any staff member if I am having any personal issues as well as class issues."

The organization provides a safe space for members to interact and do schoolwork as well as receive counsel and advice from the staff. The transition from military life to college life can be rough, but CALV aims to make that transition smoother.

"Some of our work in the military can transfer to certain colleges," said Furr. "You can take what you have been doing and apply it to a higher education that will help you find and pursue your vocation in life. Plus, we already have the structure of responsibility to help us maintain our education path."

Furr wants non-military students to know that veterans are still people. She believes that the student body could benefit from talking to veterans or any military-related individuals.

"We can be a person that they look up to for guidance with how to stay

focused and give it your all in each class that you attend," said Furr. "We can show great work ethics to those who may be lacking certain aspects of a good working ethic. We can help educate them on our experiences, which may relate to a class they are currently attending or will attend in the future."

CALV helps ease the transition from military to college, but military students and veterans experience the same highs and lows as everyone else. Non-military students can learn a lot from UWG veterans by talking to them and learning from their experiences.

"Although you may not see our everyday struggles, we have them just as any other student does. Whether it's a physical or mental health struggle, we all have them," said Furr. "Just know that we appreciate it when you ask about what we did. Treat us with respect and we will treat you with respect."



Photo Credit: Anne Holmes

Center for Diversity and Inclusion Receives National Recognition

Chelsea Newton

Contributing Writer

The UWG Center for Diversity and Inclusion has received the Higher Education Excellence in Diversity Award.

This award was given to express the many ways that UWG brings the student body together. The student body, although diversified, continues to grow.

UWG is measured, along with other schools in the U.S. and Canada, at an institution's level of achievement and commitment to broadening diversity and inclusion on campus. Creating a space for diversity is a part of university pride in being able to offer initiatives, programs and outreach, student recruitment, retention, completion and hiring practices for faculty and staff so that diversity can be known as a part of the educational experience during a student's college career.

"We are fortunate at UWG to have diversity in experience, genetic makeup of the campus, training and all aspects of diversity," said Dr. Yves-Rose Porcena, Chief Diversity Officer at UWG. "We enveloped aspects such as age, disability, race and LGBTQ. Although there are gaps, we most certainly have succeeded at being a diverse college institution."

There are two strategies that have been implemented by Dr. Porcena and the CDI for continuing this growth and expansion of diversity.

"We want to create more workshops for students and faculty," said Porcena. "We want all who attend or work for the University to be prepared with on site training in developing the skills necessary to promote diversity and submerge our student culture into it."

The student diversity at UWG has been driven organically by location and statistics of students that have chosen UWG to be their place of study. Because of this, there is a new expectation for the staff to be able to handle such a wide-array of students in the UWG population and tend to all of their needs.

"Of course we can hire a bigger base of faculty," said Porcena. "This year we have more funds than we have in times past to hire a more diversified culture of staff, but it still isn't where we would like it to be. There are still gaps that we are working through, but this is indeed a rare accomplishment."

The staff at the UWG CDI are becoming more culturally competent with additional training programs and workshops.

"One thing we stress in workshops is to eradicate bias," said Porcena. "This means that staff need to be aware that what one word or subset of words might mean to one student who is African American, might mean something totally different to a student who is Hispanic. We must become adaptable as a student body and as a staff for the growing population to be cared for and to reach the highest level of education."

In order for UWG to fulfill its culture objective– to become the most diversified university sought after as the best place to work, learn and further education, UWG must continue to open its arms to a growing population and exemplify our core values, including diversity and inclusion. Receiving this award shows that the work is in progress.

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The West Georgian welcomes letters to the editor.
Letters may be mailed to:
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or sent via electronic mail to:
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HollyHood: UWG Models and Business sets Personal Record in Annual Fashion Show

Ashley Dorsey

Contributing Writer

Models and Business (MAB) hosted its annual fashion show on Nov. 8 in the Campus Center. This year's theme was "HollyHood: A Modern World."

MAB is a modeling and fashion organization bringing awareness to diversity and body image both on and off the runway. MAB takes pride in showcasing models of all ethnicities, shapes, sizes and backgrounds.

"Models and Business is an organization that focuses on growing, exploring and helping our members to become the best versions of themselves," said Jahquele Burks, Vice President of Models and Business.

MAB is an organization that focuses more on being a motivating model and fashion troupe that thrives on instilling self love and confidence.

"MAB members are passionate about the organization. Because of the values that it holds and what it represents, our motto is 'Where Fashion Meets Confidence'," said Burks.

This year MAB broke a new personal record with the number of individuals they had in their show.

"We had about 50 people in the fashion show this year, and that is the most MAB has ever had in one of their fashion shows," said Burks.

"Although others thought this was too many people to have in our show, we knew that with this group of individuals we could host one of the greatest fashion shows that West Georgia has ever seen."

MAB is known for hosting these fashion shows and each year it is something different. Every year they manage to shock the audience with the clothing pieces, the theme, the music and of course the variety of models.

"The fashion show that MAB hosted in 2016 was a Black Tie event and very upscale and the following year we had a more relaxed and urban theme," said Burks. "Basically what we wanted to capture this year was the vision of what our students wanted."

After conducting surveys, receiving social media feedback and expressing ideas MAB soon decided that the students wanted a show that was split between upscale and classy, but also urban and affordable.

"Even the decorations that we incorporated are classy, but still give you a feeling of being at home," said Burks. "We wanted everyone who attends to feel comfortable and feel as though they are at home because that is how

MAB is. We are a very family based organization."

Every year MAB strives to improve the fashion show and this year they felt as though they were able to do that through the decor and presentation.

"All of our pieces were handmade. This included the floor pieces and also the floral pieces," said Burks. "Another new improvement is that this year we decided to get rid of the stage and have an 'In-Crowd fashion show.'"



Photo Credits: Sam Hina and Kail Aceornon



Photo Credits: Sam Hina and Kail Aceornon

Student Government Association Emphasizes Student Safety with Safety Night Walk

Ashley Dorsey

Contributing Writer

The time of the year is approaching where UWG hosts its annual Safety Night Walk. UWG is always trying to incorporate different programs to help students on campus feel safe and protected at all times. One of the annual events that is hosted every year is the Safety Night Walk.

The Student Government Association (SGA) hosts this event as a way to ensure safety on campus.

"Our annual Safety Night Walk is all about making sure students feel safe on this campus," said Rebekah Brinkley, Vice President of Student Life. "Basically, we split off into two teams and walk around campus."

Brinkley makes a map of the walk beforehand which serves as a guide as to what places on campus pose a possible safety concern.

"This year's map focuses more on residence halls while last year's looked at the Quad and UCC area," said Brinkley. "It's all about looking at the places we see students hanging out a lot that might pose safety concerns for them."

Along with the detailed map, Brinkley also writes a report that discusses the areas on campus that garner the most concern.

"I write a report with pictures and descriptions of areas people had concerns about, and that report is sent to the various campus departments that might be able to do something about it," said Brinkley. "We also discuss it at our SGA meeting and send the report to my committee to look over and propose what changes we try to push for."

SGA encourages students to come to this event not only for them to learn about safety on campus, but also so that they can express their concerns and feel as though their voices are being heard.

"Our biggest go with this event is just making sure that students know SGA hears their concerns and will try to make a difference for them," said Brinkley. "We want students to know that they can come to us with anything and we'll

try our best to address it. Students should always feel welcome and safe on campus and we want to continue to make that happen.

"To me, safety on campus means feeling welcomed and unthreatened during everyday activities such as walking to class, hanging out on campus or driving through the parking lot at night," continued Brinkley. "Students should definitely come to this event so we can know what's going on on campus, if they have safety concerns we want to know. Even if they don't, they can help us find areas that people might not be aware of."

Students that attend the annual Safety Walk also get a chance to interact with members of SGA.

"Students can also just come and hang out. Walking around campus is a great way for students to get to know SGA members and talk about UWG together," said Brinkley.

Along with SGA, the UWG Police Department has also been incorporating ways to ensure that the student population is safe. One of the ways is through their new app called LiveSafe.

"I know that the UWG police are really focusing on campus safety right now through their LiveSafe app," said Brinkley. "It's a great feature for students. ResSTAR and UPD are great assets to students in terms of safety as well. Both of them are available 24/7 to assist students."

It is important that UWG hosts events like this as they foster environments for students to express how they feel. The Safety Walk is a great way to start the discussion on how people can change their perceptions.

"I think the biggest thing about campus safety is just making sure you're doing your part. If you notice something, say something," said Brinkley. "No matter how small or how big the safety concern might be, it's important to let someone know."



SAFETY NIGHT WALK



Photo Credits: Rebekah Brinkley

MEET ON CAMPUS CENTER BACK PATIO



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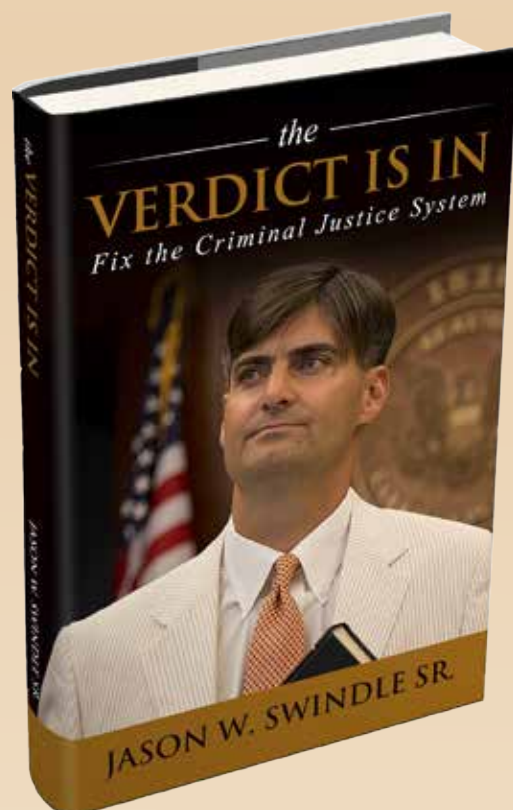
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Looking Ahead: UWG Unveils Proposed Master Plan for the Future of Campus

Andy Hendricks
Contributing Writer

The UWG Department of Campus Planning and Facilities recently presented the Campus Master Plan in a town hall meeting, showing the proposal to students, faculty and staff, while also answering questions and gathering feedback of the plan.

The Master Plan is the result of a three to four month data analysis of the campus with an outside consultant, taking in to account campus topography, traffic, weekly schedules in classrooms and other factors. While the plan is ambitious, no details are firm yet, as it must still be presented to the Georgia Board of Regents for approval.

Phase 1 of the Master Plan focuses on many relocation efforts. Notably, the baseball field and track will be relocated to the Athletic Complex, freeing up green space on campus as well as consolidating campus athletics into one major area. The first phase will also seek to improve pedestrian life on campus with the addition of clearly defined footpaths to connect the less accessible areas of campus with the heart of campus at a crossroads in Love Valley.

Further, Phase 1 includes the possible future projects of a new residence hall behind the Arbor View Apartments and a new building for the Richards College of Business on Maple Street.

Phase 2 of the Master Plan will address a concern for many members of the UWG community, campus traffic. In order to discourage cut-through traffic and speeding drivers, three-way stops will be installed at major campus intersections.

Also, the second phase of the Master Plan will task itself with updating campus buildings and spaces, including renovations of the Bookstore, Pafford Building, Humanities Building, Gunn Hall, Strozier Hall and Ingram Library.

The University Community Center, Boyd Building and Anthropology Building will be demolished in Phase 2. The programs inside these buildings will be moved to other areas on campus, possibly the newly renovated buildings mentioned above. These demolitions will make space for a more connected campus, as well as the addition of a 4,000-seat amphitheater in Love Valley. The amphitheater aims to preserve the valued green space of campus, while also creating a formal area for large events such as a concert or graduation ceremony.

Phases 3 and 4 of the Master Plan look to the far future with larger,

long-term projects. Their tasks include the addition of a science complex connecting with the Biology Building, as well as connecting the academic buildings on Front Campus Drive to the Academic Quad, creating a more centralized campus.

The Master Plan has many proposed changes for UWG in store. While the time-table of the plan is not yet set, the campus that many students call home today could look very different in the near future.



Photo Credits: University of West Georgia



Photo Credits: University of West Georgia

NEWS

Doctors Urge Vaccinations as Flu Season Approaches

Jordan England
Contributing Writer

Local health officials urge the public to receive a flu vaccination as soon as possible and take precautionary measures to keep the illness away.

The dreadful flu season is ramping up once again in Georgia, with several cases already diagnosed. Flu vaccinations have been administered across the U.S. since early October, in hopes for a less severe season this year. Health officials emphasize the urgency of receiving the flu vaccination each year along with efficiently washing your hands, staying hydrated, getting plenty of sleep and staying away from those who are sick.

Flu virus strains typically change each new season. Health officials carefully review and update the formulation of the vaccine with hopes to provide the most protection for the upcoming flu season. Influenza vaccine effectiveness varies from year to year; the protection provided by the flu vaccine depends on a person's age and health status, as well as the similarity between the viruses in circulation versus those found in the vaccination.

Dr. Neha Shah, who specializes in infectious disease at Piedmont Newnan Hospital and Dr. Aundrea Hasty, an infection preventions specialist also at PNH, firmly express the need of receiving this year's flu vaccination.

"For the best protection, everyone six months and older should receive the vaccination annually. Every flu season is different and the influenza infection can affect people differently," said Shah. "Vaccination has been shown to have many benefits including reducing the risk of flu illnesses, hospitalizations and even the risk of flu-related deaths in children."

It is never too late to receive the flu vaccination, no matter how late in the flu season it may be. Even if an individual becomes ill with the virus, the vaccine will shorten the duration of the sickness and dramatically reduce the related symptoms.

"Most of the flu-related deaths that occurred last year were people who had not been vaccinated," said Hasty.

The CDC recommends that people receive a flu vaccination by the end of October in order to build up a two-week immunity of antibodies. The shot contains beneficial attributes that continue to work throughout the latter part of flu season.

"The more people that have immunity against flu viruses will help stop or slow the spread of infection. It also helps decrease the chance of someone who is not immune to come in contact with an infectious person," said Hasty.

"So far, this year, the CDC has reported that Influenza A is more prominent, but both A and B are circulating just like last year. The majority of influenza viruses circulating are in this year's vaccine," said Shah. "That doesn't mean the strains won't change, but your body should have some immunity."

Health officials at PNH cannot voice enough the importance of taking steps toward every day prevention against the flu. Efficiently washing one's hands, getting plenty of sleep each night, hydrating properly and avoiding contaminated surfaces and sick people will better the chances of staying healthy throughout this year's flu season.

"Washing your hands reduces the spread of germs; the influenza virus sticks to surfaces which makes it easier to fall ill with this virus when



you touch your face or mouth after touching the contaminated surface," said Shah. "It's so important that you keep your bathroom and kitchen sanitized, drink lots of water and avoid crowds during the peak of flu season."

Flu season typically starts in November and lasts through the end of March.

"Last year, the highest month of diagnosed flu cases was in January. Currently, the following states have more flu activity than the rest of the country: OR, ND, KY, WV, MA," said Shah.

A fever, aches and pains, chest discomfort, cough, chills and headache can be telling signs that you may have the flu. Health officials at PNH advise that if you have any of these symptoms that you contact your primary care physician.

"The longer you wait to get treated, the more severe symptoms can get," said Shah. "If you feel sickly, stay home from work or school to prevent spreading illness to others."

Photo Credits: Keim Oak School District

Changing It Up: UWG Theatre Performs Unique Adaptation of Macbeth

Rebekah Brinkley

Contributing Writer

The UWG Theatre Company performed an innovative and captivating version of Shakespeare's *Macbeth* for their final fall show.

The director of *Macbeth*, Christine Fuchs, chose to focus on the idea of ambiguity and cast some of the main roles as opposite genders of Shakespeare's original characters. The production ran from Nov. 7 to 16 and featured a matinee option over the weekend. The show lasted just over 120 minutes with little set or costume changes throughout.

Macbeth began with an interesting number composed of the central characters stomping around the center of the room with wooden poles. It was an odd way to begin the evening but it grabbed the audience's attention from the beginning. Soon after, three witches were left on the stage to foreshadow the play. The witches are a staple of *Macbeth* and they did not disappoint.

The cast was predominately female which made it a little confusing at times to keep track of some of the characters, especially since *Macbeth* and Banquo were played by females. There was even one cast member in particular who played four different characters throughout the night. Her

repetition made it difficult to differentiate which role she was playing in a particular scene. For example, she played the doctor in a scene that came after one of her previous roles, the King, had died which left audience members wondering if the King had come back to life or not.

The best performer of the show was Ashley Carter who played Lady Macbeth. Carter captivated the essence of the character well and pulled in the audience's attention every time she spoke. Her stage presence was amazing and her performance of the intense scenes exhibited her raw talent and passion for theatre.

The biggest distractions of the night were the constant lighting changes and sound effects. Every other scene went from dark to drastically bright with the changes that kept occurring. It was tough having to readjust your eyes every few minutes and keep focus on what was happening on stage. There were also high pitched and overwhelmingly loud sound effects every so often. The noises were louder than they should have been and seemed to make the audience jump every time any sound occurred.

The hardest part of the evening was trying

to decipher the language of Shakespeare. The show could get a little confusing when the actors were standing in one spot speaking Early Modern English. If they were not necessarily acting the words out, the audience would start to lose focus.

Between the Early Modern English and the stiff chairs of Richard L. Dangle Theatre, the audience grew a little restless over the night. The show started out with only two empty seats and ended up having upwards of fifteen after intermission.

The lack of audience enthusiasm did not prevent the actors from putting on a stunning performance. They did an amazing job memorizing and acting out the characters in something as tough as Shakespeare's *Macbeth*. The added element of gender bending a few characters was refreshing and brought a new meaning to the story of *Macbeth*.

You're A Mean One: The Grinch Steals Top Spot in Opening Weekend

Anne Homes

Contributing Writer

A revisited holiday classic took over the box office in its opening weekend as *Dr. Seuss' The Grinch* (2018) landed in theatres on Nov. 9.

Voiced by Benedict Cumberbatch, the Grinch character seems much more kid-friendly this time around with an exaggerated American accent and petty antics. Jim Carrey first took on the live-action role of Dr. Seuss' infamous Grinch back in 2000 with *How The Grinch Stole Christmas*. Unlike the 2000 movie, Cumberbatch's interpretation of the Grinch lacks Carrey's dry, introspective banter. While this Grinch also monologues with his sidekick dog Max, Cumberbatch takes on a sillier villain role.

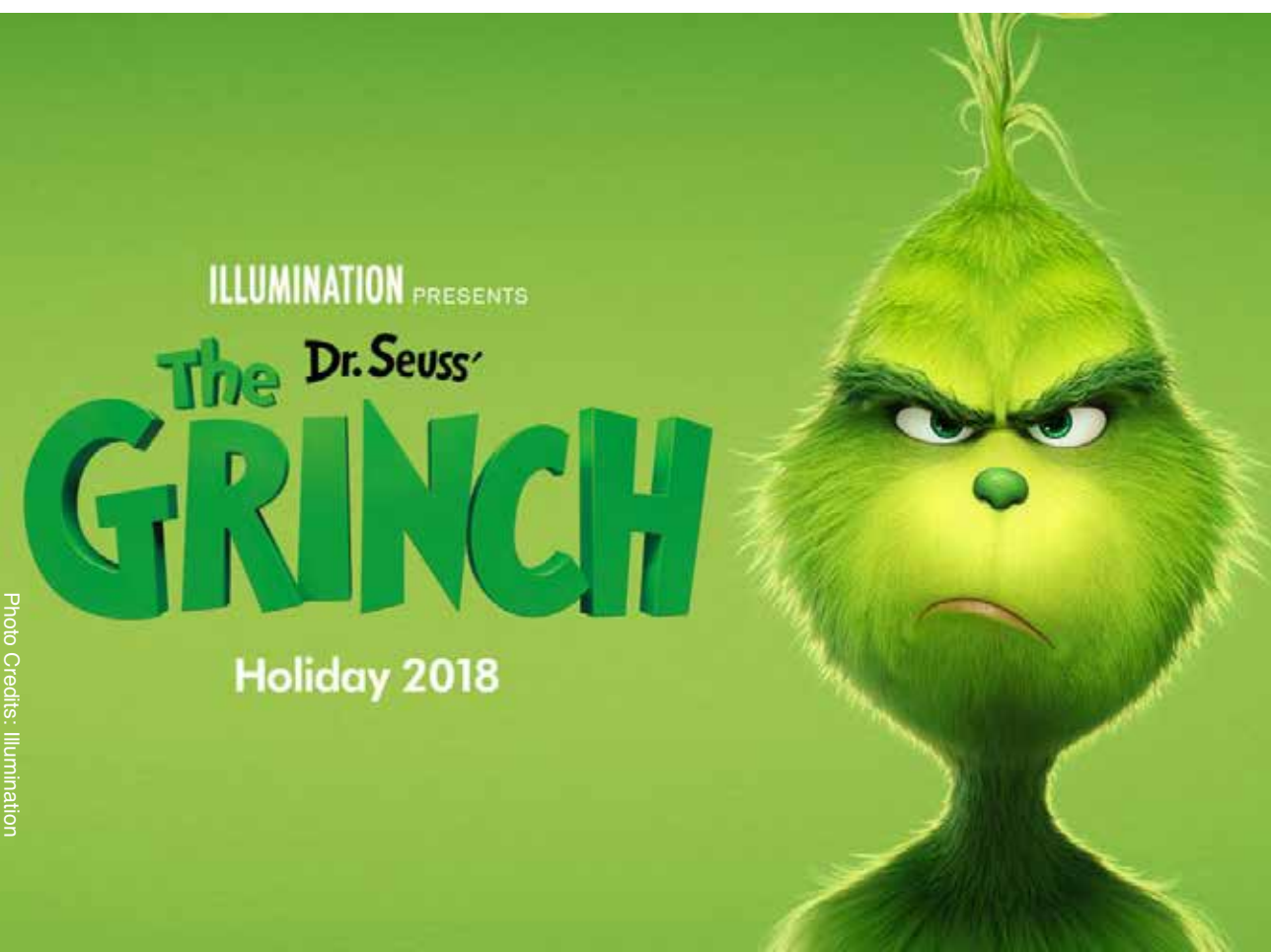
The movie begins with snippets of Whoville, showcasing the traditional Seussian style within the architecture. Clips of diverse Whos interacting with each other gives the audience a glimpse of the themes to come: tradition, family, belonging and acceptance. The audience awaits Cindy Lou Who's reveal to discover that she is much smaller and childlike in this movie. Voiced by Cameron Seely, Cindy Lou is a spunky character with a big heart and a knack for spontaneous adventure. The audience also gets to enter the Grinch's cave, seeing each lonely twist and turn up on Mount Crumpit.

Narrator Pharrell Williams guides the audience through the story with the familiar Dr. Seuss narrative. Similarities between the 2000 and 2018 movie exist, but the plot aligns more with the original Seuss story. Viewers will enjoy the sprinkles of nostalgia throughout, like the iconic Grinch smile and a killer soundtrack that revamps the old songs. For example, "You're A Mean One, Mr. Grinch" by Tyler, the Creator is refreshingly new and worth the listen. Run DMC, BROCKHAMPTON and Pentatonix are also on the soundtrack, among others.

Grinch fans expecting the plot of the previous movie will be surprised. This film does not follow the same storyline of Cindy Lou Who investigating the nature of a feared Grinch. He still hates Christmas, but we get to see his backstory from his perspective instead of the townspeople's, and they are not terrified of the character like in the 2000 version.

In this movie, Whoville is having three times as big of a Christmas, including the lighting of an incredibly giant Christmas tree, so the Grinch formulates a plan to steal Christmas with a sleigh and reindeer to avenge his lonely childhood. Meanwhile, Cindy Lou Who must speak to Santa Claus, though no one has seen him before, in order to give her mother the Christmas she deserves. Of course the Grinch dresses up as Santa to steal Christmas from Whoville and gets tangled up in Cindy Lou's plan.

The film was fairly short, only lasting an hour and twenty-six minutes. Overall, the movie was family-friendly, cute and enjoyable with nods to the old story and the classic 2000 movie.



UWG WIND ENSEMBLE PRESENTS: THE RIVER OF TIME

Tiffany Maynard

Contributing Writer

The UWG Wind Ensemble performed their last concert of the semester at the Carroll County Performing Arts Center on Nov. 11. Dr. Josh Byrd, Director of Bands and Associate Professor at UWG, was the conductor for this performance.

“It’s going to showcase all the woodwinds, the brass, the percussion in ways that people may not be used to hearing them,” said Byrd before the performance.

The concert began with Byrd thanking all veterans in remembrance of Veteran’s Day, and the ensemble performing the Star Spangled Banner. Byrd conducted this piece and encouraged audience members to stand and sing along.

The next two pieces were Concerto for Saxophone and Concerto for Tuba. Each piece was chosen to showcase two student soloists. For Concerto for Saxophone, Alex Payne played his rhythmic solo and for Concerto for Tuba, Luke Bass performed a fun and moving solo.

The guest conductor for this concert was Dr. Jacob Wallace. Wallace is a personal friend of Byrd and proudly led the UWG Wind Ensemble in performing Shenandoah as the fourth piece of the evening. The piece showcased each section, warming up the band for the finale.

Byrd prefaced the headlining piece by sharing the emotional story of how it was written, and why it is special to himself and the ensemble.

“It’s a symphony by David Maslanka,” said Byrd. “It’s his tenth symphony, and he passed while writing it. It’s super sad, but intense. His son finished it for him. The first movement is about his wife who had passed. It’s really got a lot of raw emotion in it.”

Maslanka’s Symphony no. 10 consists of four movements based off his life and a series of sketches, one of which happened to be featured on the front of the concert’s program. Only one and a half of these movements were completed by



Photo Credits: Tiffany Maynard

Maslanka himself and the rest of the symphony was completed by his son, Matthew Maslanka, at his father’s request.

“This is also the longest piece we’ve ever played,” said Byrd.

Maslanka’s symphony lasted more than 40 minutes, with only short breaks in between each movement to give the musicians time to turn the page to the next. However, the emotion and length of the symphony was not the only thing that made this piece special.

“We’re going to be the second band in the country to play this symphony all the way through,” said Byrd. “It’s a co-premiere with Kennesaw State.”

The students in the Wind Ensemble were also having a bittersweet moment on stage as they played this final piece -- after the last movement, many of their fellow band members will say goodbye to the ensemble.

“It’s sad because it’s the last concert of the semester, and we’ve got some student teachers moving on,” said Byrd. “It’s a bittersweet time, but it’s a great way to celebrate.”

Byrd and the UWG Wind Ensemble performed a captivating and emotional set, bringing their fall performing season, and some of their student careers, to a close.

CHANGING PERSPECTIVE: JON BELLION RELEASES NEW ALBUM

Sahmir Short

Contributing Writer

Jon Bellion released his fifth album *Glory Sound Prep* which consists of 10 songs. This comes after the success of his previous album *The Human Condition* which went gold after its first week sales.

In *Glory Sound Prep* Bellion addresses many topics, but primarily his faith. The album itself is filled with religious vernacular that references different parts of the Bible. The lyrics were not solely alluding to faith but Bellion often rapped about Jesus in songs like “Let’s Begin” and “Adult Swim”.

Bellion also attacked American consumerism, patriotism and the effect of social media on culture. It is almost like Bellion wants to change his fans’ perspectives by exercising responsibility within his artistic platform.

Bellion also refers to his relationship with his wife by praising the support and love present within their marriage. This is an interesting contrast from *The Human Condition* which paints relationship issues in a negative way by speaking on heartbreaks and meaningless flings. *Glory Sound Prep*, in a way, shows how Bellion has matured as a person.

The album also shows Bellion’s musical growth as well. The album is full of organic musical samples from trumpets, drums, organs and string instruments. Known for recording these organic samples, Bellion stays true to his methods in *Glory Sound Prep*. Almost every track is accompanied by overlapping female vocals that sound like choirs from heaven giving the album a fitting taste of the “glory” Bellion speaks on.

Songs like “Mah’s Joint” sound like orchestral arrangements rather than regular songs which is fitting since jazz legend Quincy Jones is featured in the song. The song is broken into three parts, two of which

do not include any vocals. It is the perfect blend between music made by instruments and technology. Other songs like “JT” sound familiar to his old sound which is more experimental and hip-hop based.

Overall, the album feels like it was cared for and nurtured. It feels like a lot of people worked on it and Bellion’s lyrics feel well thought out and in support of a specific message, creating an authentic sound. Bellion once again proves himself as a formidable song-writer and producer and should be considered among the best in the industry. Bellion’s *Glory Sound Prep* is a relief from the mainstream pop and hip-hop that has overpopulated the airways. Jon Bellion has solidified himself as an artist that is never consistent in sound but always in quality.

Photo Credits: The Slowdown



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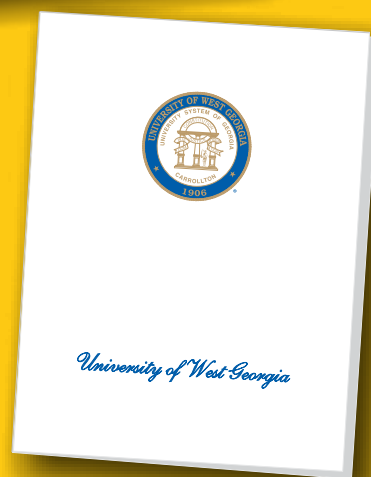
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