



UWG Shutdown



By Taylor Jackson
Contributing Writer

The University of West Georgia consists of a diverse student population ranging from students doing study abroad, foreign exchange programs and even out of state, that cannot afford a crisis such as the Coronavirus. Many of these students depend on the university for not only an education but food and shelter. This has become impossible to achieve for most students since March 13. The students living on campus were ordered to evacuate the premises for the remainder of the semester with no prior knowledge. Some of these same students also make up the working staff and have been given an opportunity to stay on campus only to continue their jobs. "I'm with my supervi-

Photo Courtesy of Georgia Department of Public Health sor and other employees up until 4 p.m. most of the time," said UWG student Joshua Hill. "Then, it's all on me in my dorm room, but in a way, I like it like that."

With the university being closed, it would be assumed that means ALL buildings. In accommodating the remaining students', they allowed some buildings to open during certain hours. "The school helps somewhat by keeping some of the places open, like Market Fresh Deli, to substitute meal plans," said Hill.

Although these actions have proven to be what's best for the students, the timing was just not right. The news came about fast and left no time for waiting. Not all students can just up and go. Many don't have the transportation let alone gas money to even get home.

"I felt that it was unfair that we were told to move out the same day they wanted us to," said UWG student Brittany Hall. "They only gave us until 5 p.m., so I had to make some quick decisions in a short period of time."

With most on-campus students being rushed to return home, a lot of personal belongings had to be left in the dorms.. The students have been informed about how to retrieve the rest of their things, but they are only being allotted two hours to finish packing up their rooms which is not a lot of time to some. This crisis has already affected the students and their education in drastic ways. Now they are expected to figure out the best way to finish off the semester with seniors unsure if their graduation commencement will even take place. The only

WHAT'S INSIDE

LIVING WEST

PAGES 2-4

COVID-19 Leaves Dorms Deserted

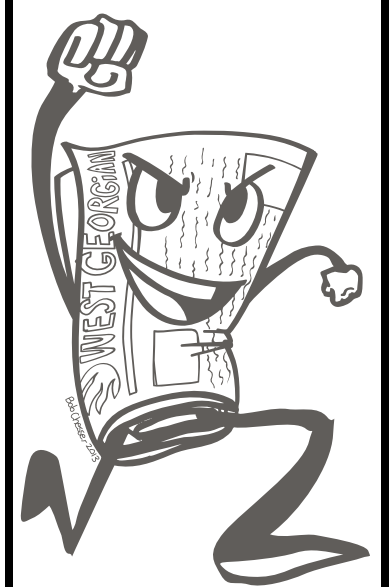
By Mathew Harvey

For Music Students, COVID-19 Strips More Than Just Education

By Brittany Shivers

UWG Holds College Preview Day for the College of Social Sciences

By Shelby Carroll



advice is to keep pushing and to work smart.

"I think the rest of the semester will really just be boring yet crazy since we have to just stay at home," said Hall. "Even though it is for our health I'm just mad to not be able to fully experience my junior year. "On top of that our assignments require hands-on learning, so I don't know how that will play out for the remainder of the semester," Hall continued. "I really do hope that it all goes well at the end with everyone passing."

Data shows the disease is mild in 80 percent of patients, severe in 13 percent, and critical in 6 percent.

Most common symptoms:



Fever



Fatigue



Dry cough

Some patients may also have:



Aches and pains



Runny nose



Sore throat



Shortness of breath

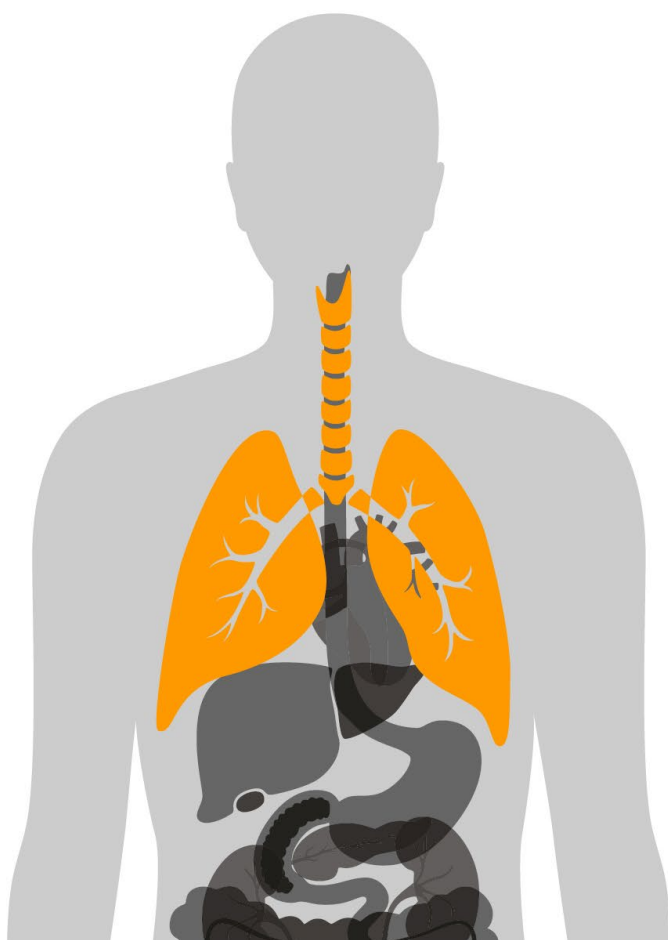


Photo Courtesy of Al Jazeera

COVID-19 Leaves Dorms Deserted

By **Mathew Harvey**

Contributing Writer

Coronavirus has changed the landscape of lives around the world and the same stands for the students of UWG. On March 16 UWG students found out that they would not be returning to campus for their regular class instructions by order of University Systems of Georgia. Instead they will be taking all of their courses online. However, this meant a little more for those who lived on campus. They were told that they would not be allowed to stay in their dorms and must gather their things and return home.

On March 25th UWG students were given a mere two hour time slot to grab all of their belongings from their dorms.. Angela Patterson, a UWG student, had her time slot fall later in the day which left her far less people on campus, including the staff.

“The buildings were unlocked when I arrived, and there were no staff members present, meaning it was just a free for all to come and get your things and exit,” said Angela. “My time slot was from 4-6pm, so it’s

possible that since it was so much later in the day that all the staff had left.”

While Angela was free to grab her things as she pleased without much fuss the directions were vague and help from staff was not present. Instead students were sent in to grab their things and sign out using a digital QR code.

“I could say it was fairly organized, though that depends on your definition of organization, there were no signs telling us what to do, only bins were set up in the lobby and a QR present that sent us to an online google form that allowed us to check out on our mobile devices,” said Angela.

Despite the uncertainty and disappointment that students are being faced with UWG handled the situation the best that it could.

“I think things were handled the best that they could be, given the situation. It’s incredibly disappointing, but I know that it is what USG and UWG and other universities needed to do to protect the public interest,” said Angela. “While it was a bad situation all together, I believe that the university did all that it could.”

A massive part of UWG is the on campus experience. Fostering friendships, joining clubs, and being around those on similar educational tracks are reasons UWG has an excellent campus lifestyle, but now students have lost all of that. This is an adjustment that is not easy to make for many as UWG not only provides them with their educational needs but also their social needs.

Angela lives 45 minutes from campus in Newnan, GA, and moving to all online instruction is going to change her life a good deal, from going to class and seeing friends to being cooped up at home.

“All of my friends were at UWG,” said Angela. “Overall, it changes my life pretty drastically, going from being a part of clubs and seeing my friends every day to being stuck at home with just my mom is quite the change and adjustment.”

Students like Angela are not only losing their time with friends, but also their classes. One of Angela’s classes, Concert Choir, is hands-on and requires a physical presence, but now those students cannot participate

in their regular practice.

“Some classes that I was taking cannot be transferred to online instruction,” said Angela. “For example, my concert choir class was a huge part of my schedule, and cannot be done online because the class is mostly about developing both acapella and singing with accompaniment.”

One of the scariest impacts that COVID-19 has had is the uncertainty it has left in the air. Students who have lost their classes, their dorms, and their meal plans are still unsure about how that is being dealt with.

“In regards to how that class is going to be handled, to be honest I’m not sure. I do have a meal plan, but I haven’t been informed about anything regarding reimbursements,” said Angela. “This is another one [dorms] that I’m not sure about. If we are getting anything back, it hasn’t been discussed with me yet.”

This has been an unprecedented event for UWG staff and students and with nothing certain but uncertainty itself, it must be maneuvered through day by day.



Image Courtesy of UWG Housing & Residence Life

THE WEST GEORGIAN

Justin Hodges
Editor-in-Chief

Tre Wade
Graphic Designer

Mathew Harvey
News Editor

Brittany Shivers
Feature Editor

Taylor Jackson
Copy Editor

Jada Carswell
Webmaster

Richard Shah
Photographer

John Sewell, Ph.D.
Advisor

For Music Students, COVID-19 Strips More Than Just Education

By **Brittany Shivers**

Contributing Writer

Ink is printed on paper. It isn't words or pictures or even a drawing. It's different sorts of black shapes seemingly strewn across five horizontal lines. The ink is like an encrypted code—only certain people possess the motivation to make sense of it, but anyone can understand it if they want to learn. So what exactly is it? It's musical notes strategically placed on a staff on paper. However, music is not made on paper alone. A true musician will interpret the visual, tangible notations through their own soul, and through those soul interpretations come unique yet precise musical expressions. Because musicians are so tied into their music, it is only imperative that they collaborate with other musicians and share their sounds with the world.

The COVID-19 pandemic, however, has put an abrupt pause on music expression and synergy at UWG. Music is almost entirely hands-on and without going to class, students in the Department of Music do not have the opportunity to create music together and learn from one another. Moreover, professors have to get creative in finding solutions to making real music through a computer, and some students will never perform another concert with UWG, as they previously thought they would have the opportunity to do. "I have invested a whole lot. Not only have I invested in the program, but it has invested in me," said Jonathan Buchholz, a final year graduate student pursuing his Master of Music with a concentration in Performance. "After seven very long years of studying and

hard work, I don't get to show anything for it. We just recently came back from Louisiana, and we did a concert there, and I had no idea that I was playing my last concert."

Buchholz was slated to perform in three recitals before he graduated. For those music students in the final year of their degree, whether undergraduate or graduate, students are required to play at least one recital, which works as a senior capstone. Often the recital is just the student performing alone, aside from the piano accompaniment.

"This reality has impacted a lot of us, not just me," said Buchholz. "The recitals are for us to show the accumulation of our hard work after many years, and now many of us won't get to do that. And that's not to say it's the university's fault, I think they're making all the right calls. It's just that the nature of what we do makes it really difficult to continue at a time like this." Before an official recital, a student must perform in front of a panel of professors, which is called a hearing. At the hearing, a student is approved for his or her recital. Fortunately, Buccholz performed his hearing just three days before the university was shut down, which will count as his final credit to receive his graduate degree this spring. Other students were not so fortunate. Currently, music education professors are trying to find ways to utilize recording technology to help students move forward and/or graduate on time.

"For the students who haven't passed their hearing yet, that's the thing that professors and faculty and staff are really working towards to try and figure

out because that's technically the degree," said Buccholz. "That's what satisfies the recital credit." Aside from the canceled events, some music students are just reaching one of the hardest points of obtaining their degree. UWG sophomore Rachel Breaux, who is pursuing her undergraduate degree in music education, said that the semester she is currently in is one of the most difficult for an education major. Having everything online will only make it more challenging, and there is a lot at stake.

"Success in the classes I am taking right now determine my success for the rest of my degree and even my career," said Breaux. "Most of this is determined by final exams, performances, recitals, level changes, projects and more." On top of the regular challenges of online learning, some music students will only have limited resources at home. The university provides music students with a variety of resources, with musical instruments being the most crucial. The keyboarding classes that every music major must go through, for example, have to be heavily adapted for the online format.

"Not everyone has access to a keyboard or piano in their homes, so our professors are having to be a bit creative in order to make everything work," said Breaux.

One of the largest problems in the music department though is for music education majors that are supposed to be student teaching this semester. Student teachers must film videos in the classroom to complete their Teacher Performance Assessment (edTPA) that they need to graduate.

"Passing edTPA is definitely how we become certified teachers, so we have to be able to finish it to teach," said Valerie Vise, senior Music Education major at UWG. "I am lucky because I have finished the filming that I need to complete edTPA, so I will be able to finish that and get my certification."

Other students, however, were not so lucky. For those student teachers that have not completed their videos, they are trying to get assignments out to their students online. But finishing edTPA in this fashion will prove difficult because a majority of edTPA questions are based on student interaction, which is not the same virtually, according to Vise.

"To my knowledge, if a student doesn't complete edTPA, they will also receive an incomplete for their internship, which would result in them not being able to graduate on time," said Vise. "They would have to student teach again in the fall and complete a new edTPA in the fall with a new class." Essentially, senior music education majors are getting hit the hardest by the COVID-19 closures but, of course, all the music majors are having to adjust to a world where they can't perform publicly, and they can't make music together. "The virus has definitely impacted us negatively, as playing music is really an outlet for most of us," said Breaux. "It's one of the most beautiful acts of expression, especially when it's with others. For the music department, it's also the majority of our social interactions. Now that we are forced into isolation, we are also isolated from our music community, our society, our culture, our expression and our main outlet."

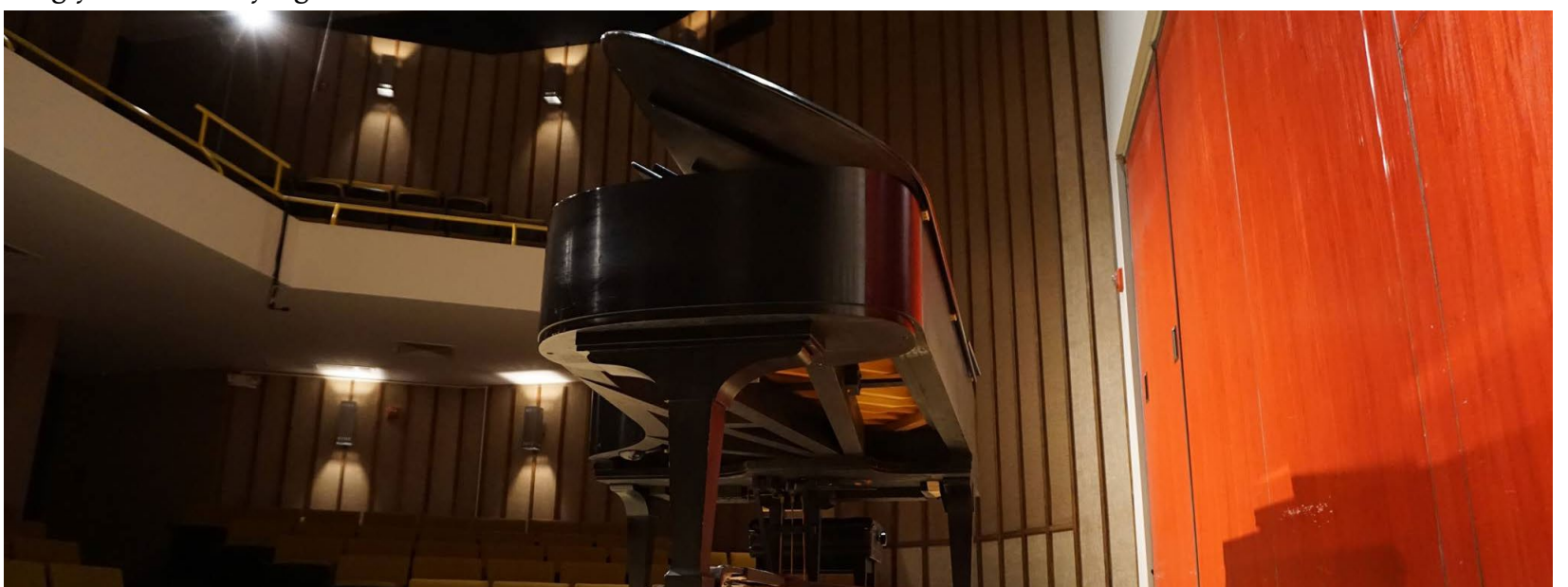


Photo Courtesy of UWG Department of Music

UWG Holds College Preview Day for the College of Social Sciences



Shelby Carroll, *The West Georgian*

By Shelby Carroll

Contributing Writer

UWG held a College Preview Day for the College of Social Sciences (COSS) at the university March 7 at 9 a.m. This event provided current and upcoming students the opportunity to be able to meet with faculty, staff members, and alumni from the COSS. By attending students were given the chance to check out the university's scholarship opportunities, explore the facilities and learn about other departments.

College Preview Day was held in the Technology-Enhanced Learning Center at UWG. Although it was primarily held as an event for students, it was considered as open to the public so that students along with their friends and families could experience

the Richards College of Business (RCOB) at UWG. All students from all grade levels were welcome to attend, but the focus was primarily on the following majors of interest: Anthropology, Criminology, Mass Communication, Psychology, Sociology, and Political Science.

Attendance for the day consisted of 27 COSS students and over 50 guests. All inquiries for information towards registration and attendance were directed to Dillon Montes de Oca, the Associate Director of Admissions / Campus Visits and Outreach Programs. "Prospective students and guests have the opportunity to meet with professors and staff members who will help them grow in their academic careers.

College Preview

Day allows those students to get an inside look at all of our different colleges and schools, and what really makes the University of West Georgia unique. Our university cares for the student and wants them to succeed in everything they do. We are changing lives, and we need to spread that message," Montes de Oca says. Although the focus of the event was primarily for new students, it is a key component that current students at the university participate in events like these.

"It is important for current students to play a role in College Preview Days. Prospective students want to hear from current students about their experiences and how it has impacted their careers and how the University

cares about the student perspective. I come from a large public university where you felt like another number in the classroom, but the University of West Georgia encourages your voice to be heard and can make a huge difference right in your community.

Students at the University can continue to spread the good things that they are doing and make those lasting impacts on prospective students to come to UWG," Montes de Oca continued. Spring Preview Day for UWG was scheduled for April 19, but has been canceled due to the effects of COVID-19. The rescheduling of events will be reevaluated after May 7. In the meantime, you can still visit West by completing a virtual video tour on the university's website.