



Photo: Richard Shah, *The West Georgian*

Univ. of West Georgia leader could face “no confidence” vote

CARROLLTON, Ga. (AP) — “I’m at every Faculty Senate meeting,” said Kelly. Some professors at the University of West Georgia are seeking a vote of “no confidence” in the leadership of university President Brendan Kelly, whom they accuse of creating a “culture of fear” on campus. Since Kelly took over in March, some faculty members have expressed frustration over perceived failure to consult with restructuring of university colleges and departments and the result was circulated online Monday, promising the signers anonymity ahead of a potential vote one professor was disciplined for telling his students, without naming the individual, that one of their nonbinding, but Faculty Senate classmates had been infected. Chair Daniel Williams told The Times-Georgian that it would be “a very important symbolic diversity and inclusion office, measure. It would be an official “with an utter disregard for the statement of faculty opinion.” concerns and needs of UWG’s student population, which currently includes over 50% of students from racial minorities.”

The professors hope to influence the state Board of Regents, which hired Kelly last December to lead the 13,000-student school in Carrollton and Kelly’s actions have “eroded faculty trust in the administration, leading faculty to declare that they have no confidence in his ability to lead this institution in the petition are false and assert- and, furthermore, that his leadership decisions are to the detriment, rather than benefit, of the University of West Georgia.”

Any such vote would be nonbinding, but Faculty Senate Chair Daniel Williams told The Times-Georgian that it would be “a very important symbolic diversity and inclusion office, measure. It would be an official “with an utter disregard for the statement of faculty opinion.” concerns and needs of UWG’s student population, which currently includes over 50% of students from racial minorities.”

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Kelly, previously chancellor of University of South Carolina Upstate, said the claims made in the petition are false and asserted that he’s been working closely with faculty as the university navigates economic challenges. University of West Georgia.

This version is corrected to show the chair of the Faculty Senate’s name is Daniel Williams, not David.

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NEWS



Photo: Alma Beauvais, *The West Georgian*

UWG’s First Lady Speaks of her UWG Experience

By Alma Beauvais
Contributing Writer

Dr. Tressa Kelly taught for 20 years as a college professor before embarking on this new adventure alongside her husband, UWG President Kelly. Although the first few months surrounding their arrival at UWG was challenging because of the pandemic, Kelly has made the campus her new home.

Before transitioning into her role at UWG, Kelly had the time to acquire experience as the first lady of University of South Carolina Upstate (USC Upstate). Now that she is the UWG first lady, she is eager to get involved with the UWG community.

“I’m always going to be on campus and getting involved,” said Kelly. “It’s not my job to run campus. It’s not my job to make decisions for the campus, but I do think of myself as someone who is a role model or an ambassador for the university—somebody who connects the university to the town—so maybe I can help students in that.”

She began her work weeks ago when she attended and practiced outdoor yoga with a few students. She will continue to engage with students by attending sporting events, after parties for athletics and theatre productions, where she can communicate her support. Next month she is attending a brunch for presidential scholars to recognize students’ achievements.

“If you see me on campus, I’m going because I’m genuinely interested,” said Kelly. “I’m interested in athletics. I’m interested in theater and

arts, and I’m interested in going to the lectures. If you see me there, it’s because I want to be there.”

At USC Upstate Kelly hosted an author spotlight event that prompted discussion on immigration. Her other interests include social movements and gender.

“Two years ago we did the Period Projects at USC Upstate,” said Kelly. “We brought student leaders from around the campus—whether it’s sororities, athletics, philanthropic organizations or just students who wanted to get involved—and we created packages of feminine sanitary and hygiene products for those who are at risk or homeless, and we distributed them throughout the community.

“We created over 1,000 packets, and those are meaningful things that we can get together, and we can do together to learn and grow,” continued Kelly. “In the meantime, I’ll be keeping my eyes open and listening to people as they say what else they would like to see brought to campus.”

Her desire to engage is directed to faculty and staff as well. With experience as a professor, Kelly understands how important and vital faculty members are to campus. Though she is unable to teach on the campus due to USG policies, she plans to attend lectures and faculty events to show support.

“It’s making sure that people know in an intimate, one-on-one way that we see what they’re doing, and we value it,” said Kelly.



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John Sewell, Ph.D.
Advisor

NEWS

UWG Student Finds Success Through Internship

By **Madeline Wilbanks**
Copy Editor

UWG hosts many job fairs during the spring semester to help the upcoming graduating class with job opportunities. One of the more well-known job fairs is Media Day which is held for Mass Communications students. UWG also hosts the Graduate and Professional School Fair and the Career and Internship Expo for students in different majors.

All of these events provide students a way to meet employers and get internship opportunities. However, with the pandemic happening in the spring many companies temporarily canceled their internship programs, while others went virtual.

Ashley Moore, a senior Mass Communications student, faced this challenge as she moved into a virtual internship during a pandemic.

“Before my internship began, I feared that it would get canceled due to the pandemic,” Moore said. “However, our news director was determined to still provide a way for students to learn more about the industry, and for that I was so grateful.”

Because her internship at WRBL-News 3 was conducted virtually, Moore had to take what she had learned in a hands-on setting and do it at home. This meant filming footage using her phone, coming up with stories and ideas from home and conducting interviews virtually.

“The biggest challenge I faced during my internship was producing video stories,” Moore said. “Due to COVID-19, our entire internship was virtual. We all strived to stay as safe as possible when it came to producing video



Photo Courtesy of Ashley Moore

stories. These stories were mainly how-to videos that demonstrated how to perform a specific activity. The ideas came fairly easy to me.

“However, the biggest challenge I faced came from filming,” Moore continued. “I lacked knowledge in film basics, such as shots, angles and sequences, so I really struggled with producing videos in the beginning. I noticed improvement weekly, but I learned that filming on an iPhone can be more challenging than it seems.”

Although the internship was challenging at times, there were many skills Moore learned throughout her college courses that helped her achieve bigger goals and be more prepared.

“One of the most beneficial courses that prepared me for my internship was Fundamentals of TV Production,” Moore said. “In the course Professor Andrew Will taught us more about what goes on behind the scenes of a newscast. Little did I know how helpful that course would be a few months later.”

After finishing her internship at WRBL-News 3, Moore was hired on as a production assistant for the station while also juggling school work this year as a senior. She has been very grateful for the opportunities and courses she has taken to prepare her for this position and the busy lifestyle.

“As a production assistant, I operate cameras, graphics, audio and more,” Moore said. “In Fundamentals of TV Production, we discussed studio operations like those several times. When I’m at the station, I recognize a correlation between the lecture material and new skills that I learn.”

After graduation in May, Moore hopes to use her skills that she has learned while in school and her skills learned in her internship to apply it to the field.

“My goal is to keep the public informed and educated from all perspectives,” Moore said. “It is my priority to emphasize facts over opinions to deliver the most accurate and credible version of a story. This is why I chose to become a journalist.”

NEWS

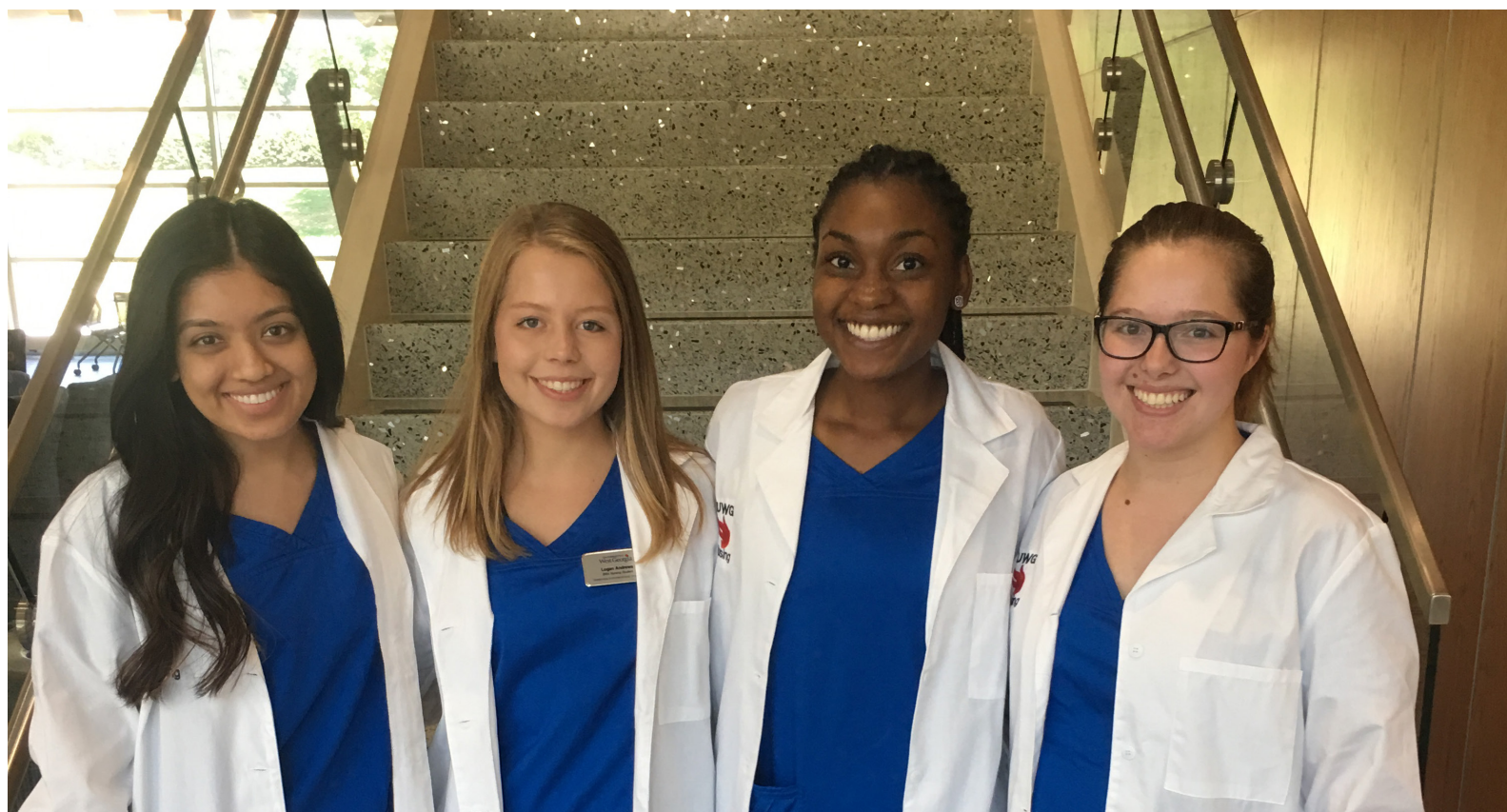


Photo courtesy of Sofia Sutcavage, right

Leading the Pack: Sophia Sutcavage Nurtures Through Nursing

By Taylor Jackson

News Editor

Nurses act in selfless ways to provide the best care to their patients. Their main priority is to create bonds with patients. With this nursing mentality, patients are more open to sharing information about themselves that may be a bit challenging.

Sophia Sutcavage is a Nursing major in her last year of nursing school. Her greatest passion is making sure that others are cared for and happy. She has learned the skill of compassion and plans to use it in her everyday work life.

“I want to be a nurse so that I can help people during some of the toughest times of their lives,” said Sophia.

“I want to be able to make people feel better when they are sick, whether it be physically or mentally.

“I think my greatest skill as a future nurse is my compassion and my emotional intelligence,” continued Sophia. “As a nurse you have to be able to understand what others are going through and understand they are experiencing some of the worst moments of their lives.”

The UWG Nursing Program has been designed to prepare and teach individuals going into the field how to meet evolving healthcare needs within the global community. It is especially beneficial now since this is an unprecedented time where COVID-19 has set new boundaries.

“I have been accepted into a nurse externship program at Tanner Hospital in Carrollton,” said Sophia. “UWG is the reason that I was able to get into the program. I will be working on the pediatric and postpartum unit at the hospital.

“Getting that position and being able to work with pediatric patients is great preparation for when I graduate,” continued Sophia. “This program is especially important now because our clinical rotations have been shortened due to the current situation with COVID-19.”

There are different types of fields that nurses can specialize in. At this point, it is unclear to Sophia which area she would like to pursue.

However, it is not too late for her. After gaining the experience from the externship program, Sophia will have learned what it is that drives her most.

“I definitely want to work in pediatrics because I think children have such great energy,” said Sophia. “Even when they do not feel well, they always look on the bright side of the situation.

“I’m not sure the exact area of pediatrics, but after the externship I should be able to identify an area of interest,” continued Sophia. Right now though, I am interested in pediatric psych hospitals or units, but I am open to change.”

Sometimes it can be difficult to keep a light mood in the hospital since nurses usually work 12-hour shifts. With this challenge, it is wise that individuals going into the profession are aware of how much their personal actions can affect others.

“Nursing school is stressful, especially while working two part-time jobs as well as working on a research project to fulfill my Honors College requirements,” said Sophia. “There-

fore, I would like to bring positivity and a strong work ethic to my future unit. A positive attitude can impact how your day will go along with your patients’ and coworkers’.

“One of the best ways to handle stress is to remember what you are working towards and thinking of all the lives that will be changed and impacted because you worked through the stressful times,” continued Sophia.

Even with positive energy, nursing can still be draining. It is such a demanding career and should not dictate someone’s entire life. Sophia makes time for herself, even if it is just a short period of time, that way she can enjoy all that life has to offer instead of just giving and never receiving.

“I try to make it a point to allow myself at least an hour a day to relax and do something that I enjoy,” said Sophia. “I enjoy watching movies with my roommates and playing games with my family.”



Photo courtesy of Sofia Sutcavage

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Carrollton Nonprofit Art Studio Heads in a New Direction

By Lily Head

Copy Editor

Arts for All Inc. The Institute of Imagination is a nonprofit art studio in Carrollton and is making changes due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Professional artist Gerald Byrd started the nonprofit organization in 2014 and still runs it today.

Arts for All's mission is to provide high-quality art and science instruction as well as inspiration to individuals and families in the community. Arts for All holds classes for adults and children with special needs and participates in community outreach as well. The organization also holds camps for children ages five and up during school breaks.

Before the pandemic, Arts for All held most of its activities in the studio located in Adamson Square.

Byrd decided to suspend in-person activities in March for the safety of the community and himself.

Since all in-person activities for the organization were suspended, Byrd decided to close the physical studio. The organization was renting the building for the studio at the time, but paying for rent and utilities was not feasible since the studio was not holding any activities. "COVID-19 slashed our clientele by more than half since we serve people with special needs and terminal illnesses and could no longer have those individuals join us in our studio," said Byrd. "It just did not make sense to continue to accumulate the bills on a building that could not be used."

ic is over. Byrd plans on the organization continuing the same community outreach, classes and camps as before the studio closed but at locations like parks and churches.

"I think the pandemic has caused not only my organization but also

other organizations to see that things can be run differently than the normal ways," said Byrd.

Recently, Arts for All has been serving the community with its party services. Members of the community can call the organization, and it will provide birthday party or paint party supplies with curbside pickup service. The party

service has been the organization's main source of funding during this time.

"Our curbside party services were wildly popular at the beginning of the pandemic, but they have lost popularity now that schools are open and people have become more relaxed about things than they were months ago," said Byrd.

Currently, Byrd plans on keeping Arts for All's physical location closed even after the pandemic

change is refreshing."

Another change Arts for All plans to make is with the board of directors. Byrd wants to strengthen the board of directors by adding people who will help find funding for the organization.

Byrd also wants to find more people with higher connections to the art world to sit on the board.

"I want people on the board who will be more aggressive about funding," said Byrd.

"With more funding we could eventually build a facility of our own.

"I know the studio will be missed by the community," continued Byrd. "It was a great place full of stories and magic, but I am glad we are transitioning because

change is refreshing."

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Netflix's *The Social Dilemma* Exposes the Dangers of Social Media

By Reilly Robbins
Contributing Writer

Smartphones. . . can't live with them and can't live without them. After watching *The Social Dilemma* on Netflix, I do not want to live with them.

In *The Social Dilemma* there are interviews with many high-powered ex-employees of companies like Facebook, Instagram, Google, YouTube, Apple and Twitter about how involved these social media platforms are in our lives without us even knowing. The director, Jeff Orlowski, also directed other award-winning documentaries including "Chasing Ice," which exposes the dangers of climate change, and "Chasing Coral," that captures the adventures of our changing oceans.

I have always taken pride in not being attached to my cell phone, but in recent years, I catch myself checking my phone close to 30 times an hour (which is absolutely disgusting). Through this documentary-drama, I was made aware of the dangers of being addicted to technology and social media.

The beginning of the drama starts with ex-employees of these powerful social media companies, and they discuss the problem within these companies. They all seem to struggle with explicitly stating what that prob-

lem is, which after finishing the film, I learned the actual problem was never stated.

The film quickly goes into a fictional angle where a family is facing the struggles of their kids being addicted to their technology and the voice inside a smartphone, which scared me a bit. It gave a visual idea of the world behind your screen. The film gives a visual of three artificial intelligence panels behind the screen of a phone trying to keep the users constantly involved on their phone. Although I like the aspect of going back and forth from the fictional scenes to the candid interviews, it made a serious film feel a little cheesy.

The film begins to explain that through the use of social media, we (the users) are the product. Advertisers are the customers. Advertisers are paying social media platforms for the attention of their users. Essentially, social media is just selling the users attention to make a profit. This strikingly poignant concept, which was established early in the film, quickly made me want to stop watching because it was so true to reality.

The documentary quickly escalated into a topic I was most afraid of—what these media platforms know about its users.

They know when users are lonely, depressed, happy or sad and what the user is doing late at night. The film made me want to delete every application on my

phone, which I believe was the director's ultimate goal.

As the movie goes on, it becomes more and more dramatic about how these platforms are affecting young adolescents with self-harm rates up for pre-teens and for teen girls especially. One common issue with social media is that platforms cause users to feel in competition with one another, and the film hits on this topic perfectly. It details how these apps get in the minds of young girls by creating images in their heads regarding popular standards of beauty, health and style.

Throughout the whole film, I was waiting for a call to action. How can we fix these social issues revolving around social media? It is not expressed exactly what they want from viewers until the last seconds of the picture.

These experts suggest that users turn off their notifications. I was not expecting such a simple fix for such a large problem, but it was evident that the ex-employees of these powerful companies believe the first step is to turn off notifications that are not urgent. This is because notifications are what get us engaged with our phones.

Overall, the film is worth the watch. It did exactly what it was supposed to by making a viewer more aware of their phone usage. Orlowski did a great job bringing this evidence to viewers, and he gave technology users the knowledge to change their lives.

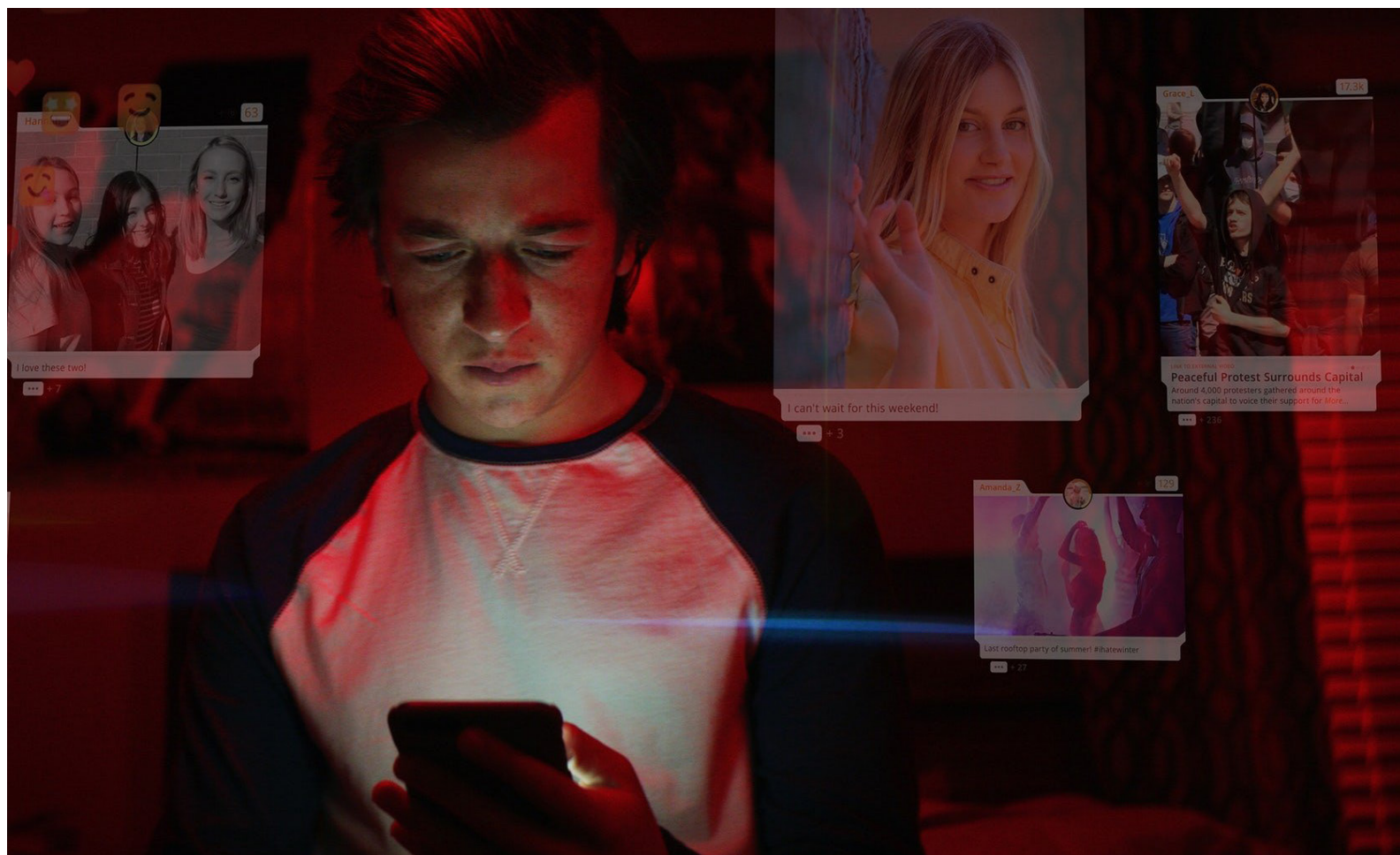


Photo courtesy of Netflix