



Photo: Amanda Clay, *The West Georgian*

Nursing and Compassion in the Face of COVID-19

By Amanda Clay
Contributing Writer

One of the most invaluable tools of nursing is the skill of compassion—the ability to empathize, provide comfort and ease a patient’s fears in a situation that could potentially be a person’s worst moment in life. In the face of COVID-19, the importance of this skill has been magnified, as some people who are gravely ill with the disease are dying alone without their loved ones. Many times this display of humanity from nurses often goes farther than any medications or treatments that can be prescribed. “Everything we do as nurses is based on good patient outcomes,” said Associate Professor of Nursing and Daisy Award winner, Lourdes Cody. “The empathy comes from putting yourself in the patient’s place. “Sometimes we do the same skill over and over again, like taking vital signs or starting an IV,” Cody continued. “You never want to get to the place where you feel like you have done a hundred times before because it’s always a new experience for the patient.” There are unique barriers to providing compassionate care during a pandemic that nurses are having the unique challenge of navigating. Physical contact teaching the next generation must be limited, and many of nurses in this climate of social distancing. UWG’s nursing program is actively working to limit their exposure to teach students how to continue to have empathetic patient relationships while also taking precautions to limit COVID-19 exposures. “COVID has definitely changed patient bed-side care,” Cody said. “We nursing is a caring science no matter what,” said Cody. “At the end of the day, we absolutely have to remind the students that it is all about safe patient care. Keeping ourselves safe is a priority in order to give their care to the next patient.” Despite the challenges, UWG’s nursing students will be ready to handle as a result of the hard work of their educators, who are putting in work to ensure that students are fully prepared with patient-centered care at the heart of it all.

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The COVID-19 Reality for one international student

By Alma Beauvais
Contributing Writer

International student Capucine Doucet was looking forward to great fulfillment and joy as a graduate student at UWG. Her letter of admission was the first successful step towards her goal, but when the pandemic struck, Capucine experienced firsthand the negative impact of COVID-19 when she had to cancel her return to UWG.

“The Pandemic really affected my plans because I was not able to go to the U.S.,” said Capucine. “The American embassies in France were closed and didn’t deliver any student visas.”

In May 2020, Capucine graduated from a four-year program with a Bachelor of Business Administration at Excelia La Rochelle Business School in France. This program, which has an international aspect, required all students to study abroad for their third year of enrollment. Thanks to an exchange partnership between her school in France and UWG, she managed to come study at UWG from August 2018 to May 2019.

“My experience at UWG was very interesting



Photo courtesy of Capucine Doucet

and pleasant,” said Capucine. “I really enjoyed living in the U.S. and studying at UWG. I wanted to come back to do my MBA in Digital Marketing because I really enjoyed my year there.”

At UWG, Capucine was involved in Greek Life, notably Delta Zeta, and several other organizations such as the International Student Club, which focused on facilitating international students’ adjustment to campus and the American culture. It didn’t take her long to make a decision when she began contemplating furthering her education.

“My first choice after my graduation was to study at UWG for my master’s degree in business administration,” said Capucine.

During her time at UWG, she cherished the American culture and the relationships she was able to build with the different professors and staff members.

“They are very close

to you, accessible and helpful if you have any kind of problems,” said Capucine.

Most countries had to close their borders to slow the number of COVID-19 cases, and U.S. consulate offices closed in France for quarantine measures. Because of this Capucine had no choice but to enroll in a school in France.

“At first, I wanted to do the first semester online in order to get a visa for Spring, but it was too uncertain,” said Capucine.

Even though students can now apply for student visas under certain conditions, it is still a complicated and lengthy process to get a visa and travel. There are strict travel restrictions and minimal flights between France and the United States. By the time the spring semester begins in January, the cold weather is likely to worsen the virus’ spread—making it incredibly difficult to start the spring semester at an American university.

“Talking about UWG still makes me emotional because I really wanted to come back for my last year of my studies,” said Capucine.

Capucine is currently in Lille, a city in the north of France, where she began her master’s degree in Digital Marketing at IÉSEG School of Management on Sept. 7.



Brittany Shivers
Editor-in-Chief

Taylor Jackson
News Editor

Maddie Wilbanks
Copy Editor

Andrew Slay
Graphic Designer

Jada Carswell
Webmaster

Hannah Keown
Social Media Manager

Richard Shah
Photographer

John Sewell, Ph.D.
Advisor

NEWS



Photo courtesy of the Associated Press

Student Teaching v. the Pandemic

By Lily Head
Contributing Writer

With schools across the country opening up during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, certain changes are being made this school year to keep students safe and prepare them for possible virtual learning. Student teachers are experiencing these changes firsthand and are faced with the challenge of gaining necessary experience while keeping both themselves and students safe.

The biggest change student teachers are seeing this year is the measures being taken to keep students safe. One measure student teachers are taking is wearing masks to help protect their students. Teachers are also making sure students social distance as much as possible while sanitizing tables and classroom supplies to lessen spread of the virus. Students are being taught habits such as using hand sanitizer and not sharing supplies as well.

“We do a lot of activities at our seats so that the students are spread out as best as possible,” said Abbey Milliorn, UWG student teacher. “Every student also has their own pencil boxes with everything they need so they don’t share, which is sometimes hard because for so many years we have been teaching them to share, and now that’s different for them.”

Another change student teachers are seeing in classrooms is the integration of online educational resources. Both student teachers and students are learning to use online tools in the classroom more because of the possibility that in-person classes may be moved online. This change is something that can benefit teachers by showing them a variety of resources to teach with.

“There’s so many important online resources that we are showing the kids to use, and I’m learning to use them too,” said Milliorn. “Even if I’m not

a virtual teacher in the future, the online resources are still things I can use in my classroom someday.”

There are concerns from student teachers about the risks of teaching-in person, but some agree that teaching in-person is the best way for them to gain the necessary experience before they graduate.

“I’m glad we are getting to go to school because this is my last year before I graduate, and I’m supposed to have my own classroom,” said Milliorn.

“I feel like the only way to get prepared is to be in the classroom with the students.

“I may have a change of opinion on being in-person as time goes on and seeing how things with the virus change,” continued Milliorn. “So far, I feel good about being in-person. Every time I see a teacher they’re wearing their masks, and I’m always wearing mine. The custodians are always cleaning and sanitizing the rooms too.”

NEWS

One Nursing Assistant's Perspective on COVID-19

By **Terrion Newton**
Contributing Writer

No one could have predicted the deadly COVID-19 outbreak that occurred earlier this year. Everyday life and activities were literally put on pause. Many were contracting the virus, and some didn't even have symptoms. Six months in, there is still no definite cure. It is hard to imagine that some individuals must risk their health every day to ensure that others are cared for.

Nursing Assistant, Sherey Watkins, is a personal home health aide. She performs duties such as helping cancer patients get out of bed, eat and bathe. The virus has greatly affected her work life and has caused her to conform to a new way of life.

Many nursing assistants found themselves without a job or with drastically decreased hours. Some patients and their caregivers also request extra services outside of Watkins and her employer. Therefore, she has to be flexible with her work schedule. Even so, she is still able to keep a consistent income.

"About five of my patients cancelled

my services when the virus first made its way to us," said Watkins. "Even though some of my patients cancelled my services, I still received a pay raise from my employer."

Over the past few months, doctors and nurses all over have posted to their social media platforms to inform the public about how deadly the virus really is. Many have expressed their devastation of witnessing so many fatalities. Watkins is grateful that she has not yet had to endure that same heartbreak.

"Luckily, none of my patients have caught the virus or passed away with it," said Watkins.

Beyond the scary and complex nature COVID-19 has brought to medical professionals, there remains a deep love for the occupation.

"I always wanted to be a nurse because I love caring for others," Watkins said. "I am in school working on obtaining a bachelor's degree in science because I want to become a fully registered nurse."

"If you want to pursue a career in the medical field, think long and hard about it," Watkins continued. "This career is really a calling. If you are only focused on the salary, you are doing it for the wrong reason."

Carrollton Regal Theater Reopens its Doors to the Public

By **Madeline Wilbanks**
Copy Editor

Despite all the assumptions and rumors, Carrollton Regal officially reopened to the public on Aug. 28 after taking time to improve the theater and put a plan in place to open during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Part of it was really just coming up with a game plan like a lot of places have," said Clayton Gilley, a manager for Carrollton Regal. "We got basic individual spacing in the lobby, closed off parts of the auditoriums, and we took a lot of that time to do some cleaning work on some projects."

Carrollton Regal has had a hard time letting citizens know that they are open because of the missing sign and the inability to display movies being shown to drivers passing by on Bankhead Highway. Despite this trouble, a new sign will likely not be put up in the near future.

"Unfortunately, that was just a really bad coincidence," said Gilley. "There was a really bad storm in January or February that broke the old sign. We were in the middle of taking the torn one down, and we were going to put up a new basic one right when this all hit."

"But with the shutdown and the company trying to get back on its feet, we just don't have the budget right now to get it replaced," continued Gilley.

The theater has not only had to worry about a broken sign, but also about certain guidelines that have to be put in place in order for guests to have a comfortable and safe experience. Some of the changes they have made include section-

ing off some seating areas in addition to no arcade or gaming features available in the lobby.

"We have closed off half of every other row in the auditorium, and we are asking the guest to keep further apart if not in a pair," said Gilley. "We try to get groups to sit at least two seats apart from other groups. Thankfully, we have not been extremely busy, so that hasn't been a problem yet."

"We are asking for a mask in the lobby and theater to be worn when you are not eating or drinking," Gilley continued. "We are doing extra cleaning of the auditoriums. We have a few people go in and sanitize each individual chair, and then if we have larger groups, we have a big sanitizing fogger that we use in the auditoriums."

Right now the Carrollton Regal has six films showing, including *Black Panther*, *Broken Hearts*, *Galler* and *Tenant*. The action film *Infidel* is advertised as coming to the theater on Sept. 17.

With the reopening, Gilley hopes to see more students enjoy the theater as they did in the past, and he also hopes to see business increase in the future months.

"This is a pretty laid back time right now. We haven't been that busy, so if students like the slowness I think it's a perfect time to come see a movie," said Gilley. "We just encourage that you stay safe and follow all guidelines, and we hope to see people soon."



Photo: Richard Shah, *The West Georgian*

NEWS

The New Normal:

Through the Eyes of UWG Senior Sarah Lovett

By Taylor Jackson
News Editor

It is a shame that classes previously done in a physical setting have to be done remotely from home, especially for college seniors who are diving into their more complex courses. In-person classes offer students something that virtual classes do not—the ability to ask questions on the spot while engaging in hands-on activities.

In the spring of 2020, college seniors were not able to walk across the stage for graduation, and it appears that it may be the same for this upcoming class. A recent report from the University of Michigan states that this pandemic could last up to two more years and it would still be far from over.

This brings many questions into play regarding education. Who determines which college courses are held virtually or in person? And how are students expected to do their best when the chaos is just too much?

Sarah Lovett is a senior Mass Communications major and Theatre minor expected to graduate this Fall. She has dedicated a lot of her time to help with film sets and costumes for plays here at UWG.

“I have endured a lot during these four years at UWG, and I am so ready to graduate,” said Lovett. “This last semester has been a struggle for me trying to apply for internships, not to mention COVID and how it has changed things. I know it is better to be safe in these times, so in-person classes do not seem like the best option. But then again, I do not learn my best online.

“And if you really think about it, most jobs don’t even take online course degrees seriously,” continued Lovett. “So I wonder how heavily this will affect how I do once I graduate.”

There is a saying that experience is the best teacher. When people experience things for themselves, they are better suited to help others. They are better equipped to create solutions for problems by doing. Not talking

about it or knowing the steps, but doing.

This new normal is teaching individuals to be more independent and to learn time management. It is gifting them with the power of responsibility as they must keep the world revolving on their own. It may be harder for students to get an internship. However, many companies are trying to make it easier for students by also going virtual.

“I did an internship at 1 Accord Media recently,” said Lovett. “I was very lucky to be a part of it since internships are scarce right now. I have a friend whose uncle owns 1 Accord Media, so it was like a foot in the door. The only thing I would have to say is that it was much different doing an internship virtually because I have done one in-person before, and it was easier and more convenient.”

The internship group meetings were always held on Zoom. However, there are many technology related challenges that come with doing anything online, such as internet connection, lag time and computer problems.

“Zoom was a headache,” said Lovett. “I am nowhere near being tech savvy, so there was so much to learn just so we [interns] can inform one another about script changes or other ideas.

“Doing things in person is just so much better than doing things virtually,” continued Lovett. “I feel as though if we would have met up throughout the course, we would all have had a better understanding of what is expected of us and how we will contribute equally.”

Despite these challenges, everything worked out fine and the project was completed on time. Not only did Lovett gain more internship experience, she also gained knowledge on how to work Zoom for the future.

“At the end of the day I enjoyed working with the other interns,” continued Lovett. “It was definitely a learning experience and something to put on my resume. This internship made me realize all the changes that could happen in the film industry without planning it in a timely manner and sometimes how you must go with the flow.”

A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Life During Wartime

By **Brittany Shivers**
Editor-in-Chief

This ain't no party, this ain't no disco,
 This ain't no fooling around
 No time for dancing, or lovey dovey,
 I ain't got time for that now

-David Byrne, "Life During Wartime" Talking Heads
 1979

An air of blissful ignorance floated around at the beginning of 2020. The optimistic wind made its way swiftly from mind to mind like pixie dust. "This is our year!" people chanted excitedly, but when March came around, the virus replaced the pixie dust when it was officially declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization.

We couldn't have predicted what was going to happen this very year. But somehow David Byrne, a pertinent member of the 80s new wave group the Talking Heads, predicted over 40 years into the future with the single he wrote titled "Life During Wartime."

Although the intended message of the song is about war, its message hits even closer to home with the COVID-19 pandemic. Not to mention, this is also an election year where political unrest and the division of the country is utterly astounding. It's almost like the song should have been titled "Life During 2020." The song's delivery encapsulates a mindset of paranoia as the lyrics get more and more heightened. There's also a catchy beat to soften the lyrics, which plays into the classic 80s trope of "the world is ending, but make it fun."

So no...I'm not insinuating this is war because it just isn't, but this is a time where the inner workings of the human mind are boggled. Mass media consumption, new health guidelines and the virus itself all contribute to an individual's state of mind. This war of the psyche which can eventually infiltrate society can be read in the outcry of lyrics in "Life During Wartime."

One particular line in the song feels like an homage to the internal struggle of the typical college student during this pandemic: "Why go to college?/ Why go to night school?/ Gonna be different this time..." School right now is what I like to call "half-school." It's what some people refer to as dual modality. We wear masks, smile with our eyes and practically scrub our hands until they're paper thin. But at least we are adapting to the "new normal," right?

There is also something I like to call the "quarantine food dilemma." Get as many non-perishable food items while you can because you're going to be in your house for 14 days or longer. As Byrne sings out, "I got some groceries/ some peanut butter/ To last a couple of days." I know I've eaten my fair share of peanut butter and jelly sandwiches.

Aside from these realities, there's also conversations of police brutality and the Black Lives Matter Movement with various alternate narratives that have all turned political. After all, the presidential election is in November, and many people say this is one of the most vital elections for the state of our country. Therefore, the 24 hour news media is taking stories and stringing them out, so we hear them over and over again. One line in the song struck my ears like modern mass media: "Heard about Houston?/ Heard about Detroit?/ Heard about Pittsburgh, P. A.?" What about "Heard about Minneapolis?/ Heard about Kenosha?/ Heard about Wuhan, China?" These are just a few of the things I've heard this year.

Based on these striking similarities, "Life During Wartime" truly is "Life During 2020." This is why the Talking Heads song is at the center of the series, which will cover worldwide and national issues affecting UWG students. This time is a defining moment for our generation, so what are we going to make of it?

Check in next week for the second article in the "Life During Wartime" series to see what President Brendan B. Kelly has to say about COVID-19 at UWG.



SCENE BUT UNSEEN

This is the second photo in our series Scene but Unseen, where we feature art, objects and strange things around the UWG campus. This bird and its cage can be found behind the Callaway Building. These photos are also posted every Thursday on our Instagram @the_westgeorgian.

Photo: Richard Shah, *The West Georgian*