



Image: Andrew Slay, *The West Georgian*

Fall Graduation to be Held in person

By Alma Beauvais
Contributing Writer

UWG canceled the Fall 2020 Graduation Fair because of COVID-19. The fair is intended for soon-to-be graduates to receive tickets and information about the upcoming commencement. However, the fall commencement ceremonies will still take place face-to-face despite date changes.

The fair, which usually takes place once each semester, was originally scheduled for Nov. 11. Fall graduates can now receive their commencement tickets, caps and gowns by mail for the big celebrations on Dec. 4 and Dec. 5.

“The commencement ceremony dates were changed for two reasons,” said Assistant Registrar Joe Fernander, a member of the graduation team. “First, the new dates fall in line with the revised academic calendar for the Fall 2020 semester.

“Secondly, the weather is the most significant unknown variable when hosting an outdoor ceremony,” continued Fernander. “If we are forced to postpone due to substantial inclement weather, we wanted an additional weekend in December to host the ceremonies.”

Since the current semester is ending a week sooner than it was initially planned, the commence-

ment ceremonies’ dates have been changed to fit the new schedule. Though the minimum number of invitations available for each graduate is still unknown at this time, it will likely depend on the number of students who decide to attend.

“The Commencement Committee is evaluating all possible options for the number of guests we can safely admit into the stadium,” said Fernander. “Students will receive details during the week of Nov. 9.”

Students who didn’t get to walk during the spring and summer semesters are all welcome to come back, which is why the ceremonies will be held on two different days—Friday and Saturday. The Graduation Committee will track how many students plan to attend the ceremonies thanks to an implemented RSVP system.

The committee hopes for a good turnout from the recent alumni as UWG’s goal is to try to maximize the experience for the students and guests.

“We realize how important a physical commencement ceremony is to students and their families,” said Fernander. “In May of this year, Dr. Kelly committed to hosting make-up cer-

emonies when it was safe to do so. We are excited to bring that promise to fruition.”

UWG continues to actively evaluate the conditions for hosting in-person commencement ceremonies. Students and guests will be physically distanced, and face coverings will be required for the duration of the ceremony.

“We have a strong focus on our commitment to host in-person ceremonies,” said Fernander. “However, we will continue to follow changing guidelines from the Governor’s COVID-19 Task Force, the Georgia Department of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Should anything change, all students, faculty and staff will be notified.”

The commencement website will be updated with the relevant information. The ceremonies will be livestreamed and can also be viewed after the event. Guests who are at high risk for severe illness due to COVID-19 are encouraged to participate via the livestream option.

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NEWS



Photo courtesy of Associated Press

Biden and Trump Face Off in Final Debate

By Reilly Robbins
Contributing Writer

President Donald Trump and former Vice President Joe Biden battled on stage in Nashville, Tenn. during the final presidential debate before the election on Nov. 3.

The debate, moderated by Kristen Welker of NBC news, touched on many different topics: the COVID-19 crisis, foreign policy, health care, immigration, race and leadership. Welker introduced the two then gave instructions on how the debate will be handled. The Commission on Presidential Debates made the decision to limit the microphone being on only for candidates answering a question. This decision came after many complaints were made online about candidates interrupting one another during the first presidential debate.

“On behalf of the voters I am going to ask you both to please only speak one at a time,” said Welker. “The goal is to hear each other and for the American people to hear every word of what you both have to say.”

The debate quickly went into questions. Welker began with the coronavirus outbreak, asking how they would lead the country in the next stages of the virus.

“We have a worldwide problem, but I’ve been congratulated by heads of many countries on what we’ve been able to do,” said Trump during the debate. “It will go away as I say we’re rounding the turn.”

“Anyone who is responsible for that many deaths should not remain as president of the United States of America,” said Biden in response to Trump. “If we just wore these masks, we could save a hundred thousand lives.”

Welker then asked Trump about the vaccine he mentioned being released. The COVID-19 vaccine is predicted to be complete within the next few months.

“We expect to have one hundred million vials,” said Trump. “As soon as we have a vaccine, we are ready to go.”

After covering the topic of

COVID-19, Welker went into one of the most heated topics of the night—foreign policy. When asked what would be done to end foreign election interference, Biden guaranteed the voters that he would put a halt to the interfering.

“They [Russia and Iran] will pay the price,” said Biden.

When the topic came to healthcare, Welker asked Trump about his take on healthcare as well as the 20 million people whose healthcare coverage is at risk.

“I’d like to terminate Obamacare and come up with a brand-new beautiful health care,” said Trump.

Biden was then given the same question to answer by Welker. In his answer Biden explained how he would update ObamaCare to become BidenCare. He explained that his updated system would allow for premiums to be reduced as well as drug prices. It would also create protection for those with pre-existing conditions and eliminate private insurance without citizens losing any current insurance provided.

The talk of race in America caused Welker to ask both candidates if they understood why people of color have fear for their children.

Biden was the first to answer this question stating that he never had to have the talk with his children because of his skin color and that he hopes to create better opportunities in America for those of color.

“There is institutional racism in the United States of America,” said Biden.

“No one has done more for African Americans besides me, maybe Abraham Lincoln,” said Trump in the response to the question.

Welker ended the debate with the topic of leadership asking both parties, what will they say in their inaugural address to the people that did not vote for them. Trump was the first to answer.

“We are on the road to success,” said Trump.

“I represent all of you, whether you voted for me or against me, and I am going to make sure that you are represented,” said Biden.



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NEWS

Leading the Pack:
Marivel Chavarria
Dreams of Success
in Business

By Taylor Jackson
News Editor

Marivel Chavarria is a graduate assistant in the Richards College of Business. She is currently pursuing a Master’s in Business Administration in Management. Her primary goal is to enter the consulting field once she obtains her degree.

For the majority of her life, Marivel has been actively engaged in extracurriculars that deal with business and management. This has shaped her career goals and put her on the path to success. “Currently I am in my first semester of graduate school,” said Marivel. “I plan on entering the consulting field when I graduate in 2021.

“In high school I participated in the Future Business Leaders of America and realized that business was the career path I wanted to take,” continued Marivel. “In college, I enjoyed my business classes and attending events of successful UWG alumni who motivated me to continue working towards my goal.”

Not too long after attending UWG, Marivel joined the Management Club. In 2019 she was voted the president. Although she is a graduate student, she remains president of the organization.

“In 2019 I became the president of the Management Club at UWG,” said Marivel. “This was a huge opportunity and I gained immense knowledge about university organizations and how to work with a group of college students to host events and meetings to help the business college.

“This semester as club president has been challenging because of the pandemic and its effects on attendance rates,” continued



Photo courtesy of Marivel Chavarria

Marivel. “Despite the challenges, I increased club membership from zero members to 27 members in a span of three months. I am very proud of my accomplishments as president.”

Marivel is a self-driven individual who is willing to do anything it takes to grow in her field. She is an introvert who does not often enjoy speaking in front of large crowds. However, she has taken a few courses to help strengthen her ability to speak publicly.

“Public speaking is a weakness that I have been working to improve in college,” said Marivel. “I am an introvert, so it was difficult for me to speak in front of a big audience, so I took a few public speaking courses to improve.”

Sometimes once an individual graduates it can be very overwhelming when making the transition between having guidance and support to being completely on your own. Therefore, Marivel is actively seeking for a mentor who will not only help her stay on track, but to also help make the transition less stressful.

“I am seeking a mentor in the consulting industry to guide me through the interview process and career search,” said Marivel.

Within the next few months Marivel will be working towards obtaining a position as a Management Consultant in a Big 4 consulting firm. After doing some work in the firm, she then plans to build her own firm from the ground up.

“Using my knowledge gained from my time at UWG and internships, I will be able to assess and help businesses improve their operation and management processes,” said Marivel. “I plan on opening my own consulting firm by the age of 35.”



Photo courtesy of Marivel Chavarria

ENTERTAINMENT



Photo courtesy of Netflix

‘The Haunting of Bly Manor’ Is 2020 Wrapped In A Series

By Terrion Newton

Contributing Writer

The Haunting of Bly Manor was released by Netflix on Oct. 9. The nine episode series focuses on a young woman, Danielle Clayton, who is seeking employment. She finds a job caring for two children whose parents passed away in a tragic accident. If that particular event doesn’t give off cursed 2020 vibes, the remaining journey will.

During the second half of the series comprised of flashbacks, viewers get to witness why the house was haunted in the first place. After contracting a deadly virus, Viola Willoughby, the first person who ever lived in the house, passed away. If that isn’t bad enough, her husband and sister end up together as a couple.

Viola originally planned for her fancy clothing to be left to her daughter. Instead, Viola’s sister attempts to sell them to pay for household expenses. Of course, the sister never has the chance to sell Viola’s clothing because Viola’s ghost squeezes her neck like a blood pressure monitor and chokes her to death. Beyond the drama and misfortune, Viola’s husband and sister betrayed her, which is the real tragedy. Out of all the people in the world they couldn’t find someone else to date? Keeping romance in the family must have been the only way for them.

The woman who was hired before Danielle to care for the children, Rebecca Jessel, experiences her own major setbacks. Rebecca and Peter Quint, the chauffeur employed by the family, were pretty much married at first sight. However, the

fire quickly dwindled when Peter became jealous of Owen, the cook hired to make nutritious meals for the children. Imagine being jealous of a man who has zero interest in your girlfriend—a man who also minds his business and cooks all day. TRAGIC!

Flash forward to present day, we see the love story of Danielle and Jamie, who is the gardener employed by the family. Unfortunately, Danielle was previously engaged to the love of her life and he was killed when a huge truck ran him over in the street in front of Danielle. Again, major 2020 toxic vibes. But at least she now had a new love story to cherish with Jamie. Danielle and Jamie bonded over the manor itself. They bonded because they had a mutual understanding of the house’s troubling nature, and questions about its history.

Ultimately, each love situation was somehow cut short because of the negative history of the house. To be more specific, Viola Willoughby’s spirit was not at peace with how her life ended. Because of this, confusion, fear and chaos disrupted the lives of anyone who stepped foot in the house. The love the characters had for each other were almost always perfect, but never enough. Almost doesn’t count. Viewers should watch The Haunting of Bly Manor if they want to see a metaphorical representation of our current reality with COVID-19. The story plot hits really close to home since the chaos of Bly Manor and the current pandemic both started with a deadly virus.

SPORTS

Softball Player Aspires to Coach the Next Generation

By Lily Head
Contributing Writer

Alley Taylor is a UWG senior who has been a successful student athlete for the past four years. Taylor is studying sports management and is a key player for UWG’s fastpitch softball team.

Taylor’s interest in sports began at a young age. She began playing baseball at the age of five and softball when she was eight. Taylor continued to play softball throughout her life and played for a premier travel softball team called the Gold Coast Hurricanes in South Florida where she is from. Taylor committed to play at UWG in the summer of 2017 and has played every season since.

While playing softball for UWG, Taylor has had big achievements. During her freshman year, Taylor was named the Gulf South Conference Freshman of the Year and was a finalist for the National Fastpitch Coaches Association’s Freshman of the Year award. Taylor said that one great accomplishment for both her and the team was during her sophomore year when they placed second in the Gulf South Conference tournament, which was the closest they had ever been to winning the tournament.

“The conference tournament was definitely a highlight of my sophomore season,” said Taylor. “Even though we didn’t finish first, we had worked so hard and felt like it finally paid off.”

Softball isn’t the only thing Taylor has been focusing her time on while being at UWG. She takes academics seriously and has maintained good academic standing. Taylor has kept her GPA at 4.0 for the past two years, which she said has been difficult as a student athlete. She was also named Academic All-District by the College Sports Information Directors of America, a special recognition for student athletes’ performances both in their sport and in the classroom.

“Balancing being a student athlete and a full-time student isn’t easy, but I think I’ve finally figured it out after four years,” said Taylor. “Find-



Photo courtesy of Alley Taylor

ing the time and motivation to do schoolwork can be hard sometimes, and my goal every week is to get my work done early and be ahead of it.”

Currently, Taylor is preparing for the upcoming season that begins in the spring. She wakes up early in the morning every day during the week to work out and practice with the team. COVID-19 disrupted the previous season, so Taylor has been given the opportunity to play softball for an extra year. Although the upcoming season won’t be her last, she wants to make it a memorable season for the seniors who will not be returning to play an extra year.

“I’ve been playing with the seniors on the team for four years now, and this is our biggest year,” said Taylor. “I want nothing more than for our senior class to give it all we have and get a championship ring this year.”

After graduating, Taylor plans on attending graduate school to get a master’s degree in education so that she can coach college softball in the future. She wants to coach college softball to give back to others by not only teaching them more about softball, but also helping them succeed in all areas of life. Taylor said that being a student athlete has shown her skills that she will need as a coach such as time-management and leadership.

“Being a coach goes beyond teaching someone the game,” said Taylor. “I want to help student athletes grow as individuals and motivate them to be the best version of themselves. I’m so thankful for the experience I’ve had of being a college athlete.”



SPORTS



Photo courtesy of West Georgia Athletics

UWG Golf Player Speaks About This Season with COVID-19

By Madeline Wilbanks

Copy Editor

The UWG Women's Golf Team competed in their second tournament of the season on Oct. 13. The Wolves traveled up to Dahlonega, GA, and came in fourth place in the tournament. Michelle Bagsic, a player for the women's golf team and junior at UWG, spoke about her experience at the tournament.

Bagsic led the team the first round in the LeAnn Noble Memorial. She finished the round with five-under par, receiving one of her best scores since 2019 of Par 72.

"My first round I actually played really well, which was exciting. I shot under par which is really good," said Bagsic. "I just wasn't expecting that. When we got to our practice round, it was raining so we weren't able to play on the course or practice before the tournament. The first round I was just focused on getting familiar with everything and just playing the game, but I played really well."

Golf, although it is a slow and individual sport, has a lot that goes into it. Players have to overcome not only physical challenges, but mental challenges as well.

"Our first day we had to play two rounds, so that was physically tiring," said Bagsic. "It's a mental thing—you have to keep playing each hole and not think about how you are going to play 36 holes. Since it was our second tournament of the season, we just had to get used to it and get ready to play that many holes because it is a lot."

Mental challenges can present themselves after playing a hard course or even a hard round. However, the mental challenge of playing well can make an appearance as well.

"The first round I played really well, so that also got into my head of 'I've played

Photo courtesy of West Georgia Athletics



this well, I should be playing good the next couple rounds' but that didn't really happen for me," said Bagsic. "So I think that was more of my mental game getting to me, and I was getting really frustrated. It is really mentally challenging."

This season the team received two new players with one new player joining them at the tournament. Because of this change, the Wolves have had to adjust for the better and in the process have become a new concrete and well formed team.

"I think we've grown a lot as a team because I think our expectations this year are higher than last year and previous years," said Bagsic. "So we all have the same goal to improve and get better and improve as a team as well as individually. I think that is something that we all have in common and we are all working together to reach that goal. The team environment is so comfortable and supportive."

Golf along with Cross Country have been the only two sports competing at UWG in the fall. Because of this both sports have gotten more attention due to football and other sports taking a break for the season. Even so the amount of attention on the golf season has not affected the way the team approaches the game and the way they play.

"I feel like we have gotten a lot of attention," said Bagsic. "However, I don't think I am as pressured because it's not like a football game where there are a lot of people coming to watch you. For Golf there is not a lot of people that watch, and it's not on campus or anything. Online we are getting a lot of attention so that is really big, and I am really grateful that we get a season."

The only difference between this golf season and previous is the attention that highlights the team's losses. In the past if the team lost a tournament, not much attention was drawn as other sports were more highlighted during their season. Now the Golf team is on the front pages and it's very different.

"If I play good now then everybody will see that, but also if I play bad now everybody will see it as well."

The women's golf team plays its last tournament for the fall on Nov. 1. The team heads to Alabama to play at the Full Moon Invitational.