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Photo courtesy of the Associated Press

## DPH Approves UWG COVID-19 Vaccination Program

By Brittany Shivers

Editor-in-Chief

The UWG COVID-19 Vaccination Program will allow students, faculty and staff to receive vaccinations on campus throughout the spring and summer semesters of 2021. The Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) approved the program as a closed point of dispensing (POD) meaning the vaccines will be distributed exclusively to students, faculty and staff of UWG through this program.

"What we wanted to do at West Georgia is to have a closed POD so that we could focus on our community," said Medical Director of UWG Health Services, Dr. Eric Heine. "The program was instituted because the president and executive council did decide that they wanted UWG to be a closed POD."

UWG has already ordered vaccines for the program, but it has not yet been supplied by the state. Heine said UWG is hoping to get vaccines in the next couple of weeks, but there is no guarantee.

"Currently, Georgia only gets about 120,000 doses of vaccine a week, so for the population of Georgia that's not very much," said Heine. "They've talked about increasing it so we may get up to about 145,000 doses a week."

It can be overwhelming for pharmacology companies to produce these vaccines effectively and efficiently. Sometimes the supply chain gets broken because of the pan-

demic itself, and other times these companies just need to be extra diligent in making the vaccines correctly. Only so many vaccines can be made in such a short amount of time.

"These companies are making these vaccines as fast as they can, but there are a lot of steps to do it carefully," said Heine. "There are ingredients that need to be had, and there are a lot of hurdles to jump over to produce more vaccines."

When the vaccines do arrive, UWG is only approved by the DPH to distribute to individuals in Phase 1A, which includes healthcare workers, first responders and those 65 years of age or older (and their caregivers in some cases). This phase also includes students who are in clinical settings. UWG will be able to distribute vaccines to Phase 1B, 1C and 3 only after being approved by the DPH. Phase 1B includes all UWG faculty and staff, while Phase 1C includes students 16-64 with underlying medical conditions. Phase 3 is when the remainder of UWG students can receive vaccines.

Based on the current timeline, it is likely that students will receive vaccines in May or early June. There are four possible locations for students, faculty and staff to be vaccinated on campus—Health Services, University Stadium, the bottom floor of Parker Hall and the main building on the Newnan Campus for individuals at UWG Newnan. Although there is a low probability of young adults dying from COVID-19, Heine says it is still important for young adults to be vaccinated.

"The risk of dying is very low, but there are a lot of side effects with COVID that people don't

talk about as much that can be long term," said Heine. "There is this one thing called cardiomyocytes, where the muscle of the heart gets inflamed and can lead to congestive heart failure—that's permanent damage."

Other side effects of COVID-19 include loss of taste and smell that can be permanent and chronic fatigue even after the virus is gone, according to Heine. All of these side effects can affect young adults who get COVID-19.

"For this pandemic to kind of go away you have to reach what they call herd immunity," said Heine. "Basically, you have to get enough of the population immune to the virus for it to no longer be transmitted from person to person."

"If you only have half the country get immunized, either naturally or through the vaccine, then the virus still has a lot of hosts that it can jump to," Heine continued. "Whereas if you have 80-85% of people immunized, then the ability for the virus to spread is severely limited, and a lot of times it just goes away."

Many people call this pandemic the new normal, but to go back to the real normal this vaccine is important, UWG chose to start the vaccination program on campus for this very reason.

"If we want life to return to relatively normal, we're going to have to get vaccinated," said Heine.

# NEWS

## Animal Population Increases at Carroll County Animal Shelter

By **Brittany Shadix**  
*Contributing Writer*

The Carroll County Animal Shelter (CCAS) successfully continued operations at full capacity despite facing COVID-19 challenges. After being closed to the public for a short period, the local shelter quickly implemented an appointment-only adoption and turn-in system to limit human contact as well as enhance its already rigorous cleaning routine.

According to Ashley Hulsey, Communications Director for the Carroll County Board of Directors, these safety protocols were an easy transition for the organization that cares for more than 250 animals.

“The shelter is cleaned daily as it has always been,” said Hulsey. “Due to the nature of caring for animals, cleanliness was a priority even before the coronavirus. Since the pandemic, extra measures have been put into place by utilizing cleaners that have been effective in killing the virus.”

To simplify the adoption process and be paired with a compatible pet, the shelter still encourages visitors to make an appointment. It asks that all visitors wear a mask and social distance as staff adheres to the recommended guidelines. But even with a safe adoption environment for interested pet owners, the shelter saw an increase in animal population totaling nearly 3,000 intakes at the close of 2020.

“We did have some adoptions at the beginning of the pandemic,” said Hulsey. “However, the number of animals we had increased, especially cats.”

Despite the increase in animals, the CCAS averaged an 85% “live release rate” through the toughest months of the pandemic. This percentage includes the number of pet adoptions, rescues, and returns to owners dating from January to October 2020. Much of the shelter’s success can

be attributed to the support from the community.

“The shelter was fortunate to be able to work with partners all over the United States like PetSmart so that animals could be transferred to other locations that may be low on inventory of adoptable pets,” said Hulsey. “We also worked closely with the media to educate people about adopting and fostering animals.”

“When we had a large number of cats, the community stepped up and started adopting them,” continued Hulsey. “The public has also been very generous to donate necessary items. We are very lucky to not be suffering from economic impacts of the virus at this time.”

In the face of many challenges, the shelter has been effective in upholding its mission to protect and care for homeless animals in Carroll County. However, a pet’s adoption relies on more than simply keeping it healthy. The shelter values the help of volunteers and fosters who help socialize fretful animals before they find their forever home.

“We are also still utilizing volunteers at the shelter, and they are very much appreciated,” said Hulsey. “We encourage fosters and are always looking for good homes to help.”

Photo courtesy of the Carroll County Animal Shelter



## COVID-19 Effects On Carrollton’s Elderly Community

By **Abby Grizzard**  
*Contributing Writer*

Increased security measures at Carrollton Nursing and Rehabilitation have left elderly patients in need of community support. The effects of COVID-19 have resulted in more precautionary policies within the facility to ensure the safety and health of their patients.

Because of these increases in security, patients have been unable to receive frequent visits from their family members and companions, creating an environment of enlarged isolation. In order to reduce isolation from their community, the residents of Carrollton Nursing and Rehabilitation would benefit from small, encouraging acts of support from Carrollton citizens. Carrollton Nursing and Rehabilitation’s Administrator Janet Fisher described the security measures that have been implemented since the introduction of the virus.

“Enhanced infection control precautions, restricting visitation and entry of people to the building and postponing or carefully limiting communal activities including social distancing have changed the lifestyles of the patients,” said Fisher. “The residents have had to adapt to changes but have overall done well.”

“We have found that most of the residents appreciate the precautions we have tak-

en in order to protect them,” continued Fisher.

Although the residents are grateful for the modifications, new restrictions bring feelings of isolation for the residents. The center provides outlets for residents struggling with the seclusion from their loved ones, but have still recognized emotional effects of the security measures.

“Of course, the residents miss visitations with their family and friends,” said Fisher. “This has been a time like no other. The center combats this as best as we can with Facetime visits, window visits and phone calls to keep the residents in touch with their loved ones.”

While providing communication with their outwardly connections, the center has also implemented internal activities to support their residents.

“Our activities department has modified their programs and provided a full calendar of events to keep the residents’ spirits up,” said Fisher. “If there’s a decline, whether it be emotional, mental or physical, we do offer essential visits for any resident that may require them.”

“We also encourage putting uplifting messages on posters and dropping them off at the front gate of the center,” continued Fisher. “We display the posters where the residents can see them and enjoy the well wishes and support of the community.”



**Brittany Shivers**  
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# NEWS

## UWG Spring Enrollment Declines Amid Pandemic

By **Brittany Hall**  
*Contributing Writer*

Spring enrollment for 2021 declined at UWG because of the increase of COVID-19 cases on campus. It has been five months since UWG has reopened and students were able to return to campus and attend face-to-face classes. UWG took the proper precautions and implemented guidelines to ensure the student’s safety during the fall 2020 semester. However, there were still employees and students that were exposed to COVID-19. There was even a sporadic outbreak of COVID-19 on the school’s campus in October. “There were 13,419 students enrolled at UWG in the fall 2020 semester,” said UWG’s Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management Justin Barlow. “The data is not complete yet for spring 2021 but new undergraduate enrollment has declined over the past year as students face the uncertainty of COVID-19.” Although there were over 13,000 students enrolled at UWG in the fall 2020 semester, over 1,000 students did not return to UWG for the spring 2021 semester. Some students who did not return decided that it was best for them not to enroll in college for the spring semester for their own safety. “More than 1,300 admitted students last fall didn’t enroll in any institution not just at UWG,” said Barlow. “New transfer students have even declined as students have chosen to remain where

they are which benefited UWG’s own retention.” Since the COVID-19 pandemic affected student enrollment for the spring 2021 semester, UWG decided to focus on making their students who are currently enrolled feel safe. Students have face-to-face classes but are required to follow the guidelines and procedures that the Georgia Department of Public Health and the University System of Georgia have implemented. “We have implemented numerous health and safety protocols,” said Barlow. “Protocols implemented this semester include instructional modalities for physical distancing, the requirement for everyone to wear a face-covering and enhanced cleaning and sanitation protocols. Our goals and expectations are for the students to engage in responsible behaviors so that we may continue to offer valuable face-to-face instruction for the remainder of the semester.” To increase student enrollment in the future UWG focused on developing an online system that offers information about UWG to those who are interested, but do not feel comfortable touring the campus in person. “Over the past year, all university offices focused on supporting students’ enrollment,” said Barlow. “At UWG we have worked to transition the enrollment process from in-person to virtual. “UWG has invested in a new online orientation that offers a significant amount of new, on-demand content,” continued Barlow. “Additionally, our enrollment processes are becoming increasingly focused on customer service through the opening of the Momentum Center on campus, a space where any question or need a student may have can be answered or resolved.”

## Navigating Nursing in the Pandemic

By **Kayla Henderson**  
*Contributing Writer*

Starch white top, bottoms and white clogs. A small logo, easily identifiable, on the right chest in red lettering ‘UWG Nursing.’ The white attire of all students from the college, one uniform assigned for clinicals, the others for classes. Nursing students going to class wear an all-blue pair. Smaller details, such as stethoscope color, headbands, or even watch type, are all customizable. Regarded as one of the top nursing schools in the state, the Carrollton and Newnan Campus offer state of the art facilities to help prepare future nurses for success. Nursing students work with professional in-field instructors in hospitals located in Carrollton or Newnan throughout four semesters, known as clinicals. “I don’t mind either of the scrubs, you get used to them after so many weeks of wearing them,” says Carlie Hill, a junior nursing major at the Newnan campus. “During clinicals, we wear two masks, and goggles or a face shield. I have goggles. I think they fit my face better.” When Carlie started Nursing school two years ago she did not have a need to buy a bulk pack of masks at Old Navy. No one did. Professors and students scrambled to readjust and transition to online learning last March. Learning to become a nurse through online labs and classes was a more difficult task. As classes returned in the fall, Nursing school amped back up. Classes are now able to be held in person, while some changes have been made to help find a new normal. Class times were shortened, practice labs were closed off for free use and class sizes condensed. Thankfully, despite all of the setbacks, nursing students are still able to

have clinicals in person biweekly—something all nurses have to complete before graduation. Most nursing students would agree that they feel as if their quality of education and how they are learning has not made them feel less prepared for the workforce beyond college nor has it stopped the fear of the unknowns. “Everyone knows that nursing school is terrifying,” says Carlie. “Being in nursing school during a pandemic is worse. It really tests you if you actually want to be doing this for the rest of your life. It also shows the realities of Healthcare. “In the beginning, people were praising healthcare workers, and while we appreciate the recognition, people need to be proactive in wearing their masks, social distancing and helping to prevent the spread,” continued Carlie. “From seeing healthcare workers out in the field right now, I see their struggles of working tirelessly, bruised faces from masks, no breaks and really long hours. And I still will walk into a store, and people won’t put a mask on.” With the uncertainty of the next three semesters, Carlie hopes that things will get better. UWG is currently in Phase 1A of its Vaccination Program. This includes students who will be working in clinical settings to have the option to be administered the vaccine if they choose so, but it is not required. “I personally think that we should all get the vaccine, and I know that it is important. It’s science. We should trust it.” After graduation, Carlie hopes to work in a Women’s Health Clinic. She hopes to help women prioritize their own bodies and health. She knows regardless of where she works in the future and no matter what color scrubs she goes on to wear next, she is thankful for the blue and white ones that got her there first.



Photo: Kayla Henderson, *The West Georgian*



# NEWS

## Her Campus Hosts its First Her Campus Week

By **Samara Marshall**  
*Contributing Writer*

The Her Campus Chapter at UWG held its first Her Campus Week. Her Campus is an online women’s magazine that has more than 400 campus chapters throughout multiple countries. The week consisted of five different virtual and in-person events including Jump Into 2021- How to Make a Vision Board and ReadIt and Weep Writers Workshop.

The chapter is involved within the local community by participation in community service and outreach events. The thought process behind organizing a Her Campus Week for students was to create events that both members and others alike can participate in as well as help or inspire others in need. Once that was established by board members the planning commenced.

“When it came to planning, I designated certain events to different e-board members,” said Amari Morrison, President of the Her Campus chapter at UWG. “For instance we have the ReadIt and Weep Writers Workshop, and I put our senior editors in charge of those events as they are a part of our editorial team. Then as president I reached out and helped organize the podcast with another organization that is about women’s empowerment.”

Both events, the ReadIt and Weep Writers Workshop and the The Color of Friendship - Unity Amongst Women Podcast, were held virtually. The writers workshop was able to provide viewers tips on how to improve your writing while the

Unity Amongst Women podcast created a powerful conversation about women sticking together.

Also, to make their events more interesting they added an overall theme of Disney movies to connect and reach more people as well. The movies included *Jump In*, *ReadIt and Weep*, *The Color of Friendship*, *Let it Shine* and the *Princess Protection Program*.

“When coming up with the events it was really a group effort,” said Katelyn Edwards, the Co-Senior Editor of the Her Campus chapter. “I don’t remember who exactly came up with the idea, but they said that’s exactly what we should do because it’s relatable. Everyone grew up on these movies.

“I was really excited about the events, especially *The Color of Friendship*, because that is one of my favorite movies,” continued Edwards. “We were thinking of changing it because it’s not as well-known but we decided to keep it and I’m glad we did.”

Not only has the organization been able to create more brand awareness for the chapter and get a good turn out on its’ events, but it has also been able to recruit new members as well. With January being over, Her Campus hopes to continue to do events and engage with students during the spring semester.

“Next month is Black History Month and we are looking forward to writing articles about the different events that will be going on,” said Morrison. “ And we are also thinking about hosting another podcast as well as partnering with other organizations.”

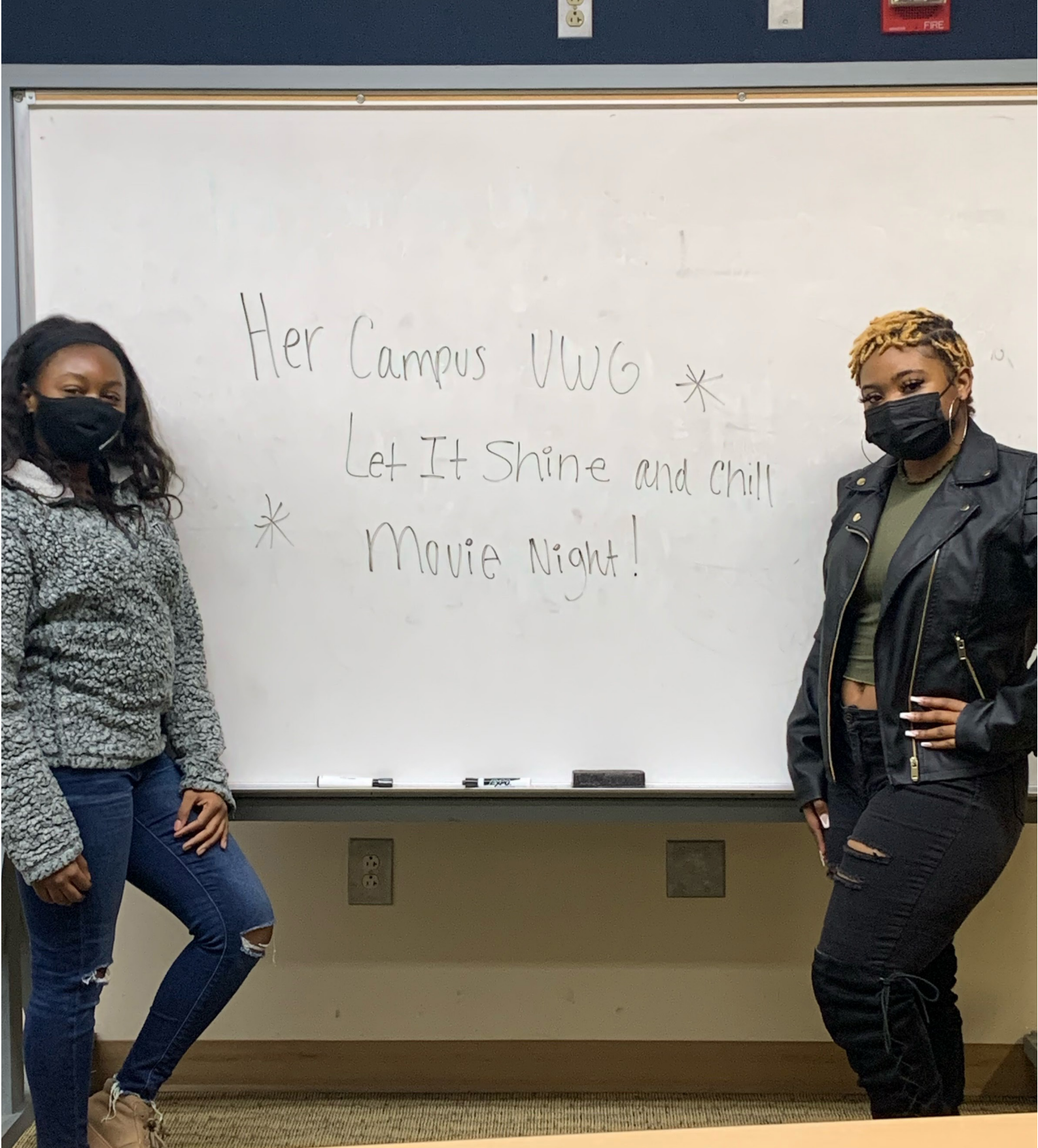


Photo: Samara Marshall, *The West Georgian*



# ENTERTAINMENT



Photo courtesy of Marvel Studios

## Marvel Makes a Comeback: “WandaVision” Review

By Abigail Cummings

Contributing Writer

After a year and a half without Marvel, we finally see a return to the big screen, well, depending how large the screen in your house is, of course. Marvel has made its first Disney+ television debut with the premiere of its new show WandaVision. This is the show that Marvel fans have been anticipating for over two years. This last year was the first time in 10 years that Marvel fans didn't have at least two movies released because of the coronavirus pandemic. So it is safe to say that WandaVision is the fix that Marvel addicts need, and it also provides a little bit of a distraction from the world's dismal current events.

In WandaVision, we see Wanda Maximoff, played by Elizabeth Olsen, and Vision, played by Paul Bettany, involved in a romantic relationship that takes place throughout different time periods. The show is set to have nine episodes and each episode will be a twist of a beloved show from that time period. The show takes place after the events of Avengers: Infinity War and Avengers: Endgame, in which the Avengers team up to restore the world after Thanos stole the infinity stones and erased half of every living thing in the universe. The overall feel of the show so far is that everything is nifty (as they said in the 50s), but there is something that is not quite right happening behind the scenes.

In the series, there is still the air of mystery about what exactly is going on. Is this all happening inside of Wanda's head or is this a trap devised by HYDRA, the

evil organization whose main goal is world domination? This is why, in part, the show is so attractive to many viewers. The mystery around the origins of the universe that the show gives off leaves the viewer wanting to know more about this world that Wanda and Vision are living in and why it is happening in the first place. Because of the timeline, we know that Vision is supposedly dead, which leads to more questions and mysteries as to why he is alive and well in this supposed alternate reality. Each episode gives the viewer another clue in which to piece together the overall mystery taking place.

The sitcom feel of each episode also lends to the success of the show so far. It gives the viewers a reprieve from the normal action packed scenes they are used to seeing from Marvel. The episodes each take on a different style from the decade that week. The first few episodes take place in the 50s/60s and progress into the 70s. These two episodes were shot to look like the classic Bewitched from the 1960s, even recreating the title sequence to fit Wanda and Vision. The third episode was shot to look like fan favorite The Brady Bunch. For this viewer, the incorporation of this style delivers a warm nostalgia to the screen. It brings together all Marvel fans by keeping the traditional theme and characters, but adds an old school sitcom twist the entire family is sure to enjoy.

The adding of the sitcom and mystery elements to the show creates for engaging entertainment that all Marvel fans can look forward to every week. Fridays are beginning to become an even more anticipated day of the week as fans across the world sit down to watch WandaVision and decipher for themselves the answers to the mysteries that the show holds.

Photo courtesy of Marvel Studios





# ENTERTAINMENT

## UWG 2021 Juried Art Exhibition is Now Open

By **Madeline Wilbanks**  
Copy Editor

The 2021 Juried Art Exhibition is now open in the Humanities Building with three galleries. The exhibition is filled with paintings, sculptures and even video footage and is like walking straight through an art museum.

The annual student art gallery opened last week for students and faculty to enjoy and features artwork made by students involved in the art program. The exhibition was created to allow students to have their first experience of their art being displayed in a gallery, and to learn many other things such as how to price their artwork, submit it to jurors and have it looked at by professional art critics.

“The purpose of all our juried student exhibitions is for students to be exposed to the professional standards of a juried exhibition,” said Art Professor and member of the Gallery Committee, Debrah Sanitni. “It is also about curating their work, presenting it professionally, both in the required specifications of the digital format and professional presentation of their art work for a gallery setting.”

For students to have their art displayed in the gallery many things have to be accomplished beforehand. First they have to create the artwork, which can take a long period of time, especially for the sculpting committee. Then they have to submit that piece of art, along with any others to be approved and then wait for the decision. By the end of the year, students have just a few short weeks to prepare the piece of art if it is chosen for gallery exhibition.

“Students may submit up to five pieces of original art according to the required digital guidelines,” said Santini. “Once all the entries are logged into the computer, they are sent to the juror or jurors. The juror may select as many or as few as they deem exhibition worthy.

“A different juror is selected each year, usually from those active in the greater Atlanta art scene. Every juror uses personal criteria to judge the work,” continued Santini. “Once the exhibition is hung, the jurors review the work in person to

make the award selections.”

“Students enter during the end of fall semester,” said Santini. “Over winter break students are notified of the jurors’ decisions; giving the students ample time to professionally mat, frame and mount their work to have it ready for drop off during the first or second week of the spring semester.”

Participation in the Juried Art Exhibition is optional, however, many students participate. There are currently 67 art pieces on display in the gallery, many more were likely submitted although not all artwork is selected.

“Approximately 75% of the art students participate, but the rate of entry varies,” said Santini. “Students anticipate the call for entries at the end of fall semester. It is a confidence building process, whether they are accepted or rejected, they are supported by their peers.”

This year was the Art department’s first year in producing a virtual gallery exhibition. While having COVID-19 guidelines in place there is signage in each of the galleries advising those viewing the artwork to wear a mask and to stay six-feet from others. The Art department also offered a virtual viewing option for the first time this year, available to access on the UWG gallery programs website. They also hosted the award reception as a virtual event on Thursday.

“This is our first virtual gallery reception,” said Santini. “Traditionally, our student receptions are very well attended therefore, out of an abundance of caution, due to the pandemic, the university & state’s safe distancing guidelines, limited occupancy rate for gatherings, etc. we felt this would be the best way to reach the most people, safely.

“The number one challenge of course is getting as many people as possible to view the exhibition in person during a pandemic,” continued Santini. “This is an opportunity to honor our students and reward them for their dedication and hard work, so although we won’t have the party atmosphere of past exhibitions, the sentiment and enthusiasm is still very much present.”

The 2021 Juried Art Exhibition is open for viewing Jan. 28 - March 4, Monday through Friday 9-4 p.m. All students as well as faculty and staff are encouraged to attend and view the students’ work.

