



THE FLAME OF KNOWLEDGE



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THE FIRST CLONING OF AN ENDANGERED SPECIES: ELIZABETH ANN

Contributing Writer

This example of Elizabeth Ann's cloning was not only significant because she was the first endangered animal to be cloned, but because of

“A lot of people are going to start seeing the benefits of keeping species from going extinct, but there’s also going to be a lot of people that are going to have objections to doing so,” said Fontanella. “Some people will complain about resources and how much we are spending, and while there is legitimacy to these concerns, if we are the ones driving these animals to extinction, we have a moral responsibility to try and stop it.”

LIVING WEST

ADVOCACY CENTER KEEPS CHILDREN SAFE

By **Brittany Shadix**
Contributing Writer

The Carroll County Child Advocacy Center (CCCAC) launched its Keep Kids Safe Challenge to encourage adults to partake in an educational training course that helps prevent child sexual abuse.

The challenge kicked off in January and will continue throughout the year as businesses and organizations in Carroll, Haralson and Heard counties participate in the Stewards of Children Darkness to Light program. Those who train and certify more than 90% of their employees or members are named Partners in Prevention with CCCAC.

“When we were trying to think of ideas to get more of the community involved in receiving the training, we thought the challenge could be similar to the ALS Bucket Challenge that was popular several years ago,” said Allison Robinson, Prevention Coordinator for CCCAC. “Each month we are challenging one of our Partners in Prevention to challenge two other groups to participate. It can be a small group or a big group.”

Carroll Electric Membership Cooperative and 3:16 Healthcare were among the first local businesses to be named Partners in Prevention alongside the latest recipient, UWG sorority Kappa Delta who trains all of its new members. The two-hour training sessions are available both online and in-person for free to any individual or organization interested in becoming a partner or receiving the certification.

“The shocking thing is, one in 10 children will be sexually abused before their 18th birthday,” said Robinson. “90% of those children who are abused know their abuser—it is someone that the family knows and trusts. 80% of the time it happens in isolated situations. In the Darkness to Light training, participants learn the five steps on how to minimize those opportunities for abusers, and they learn the facts of child sexual abuse and how to recognize the signs.

“For a few months in 2020 we were not hosting in-person training, but we started back in July with small groups,” continued Robinson. “Those are much more effective because you have group discussions that are so eye-opening.”

Individuals wanting to participate in the online training can visit the Darkness to Light website to enroll. The virtual session consists of video segments, readings and quizzes the participant must complete before certification is provided. Those interested in hosting an in-person training session, which entails video segments and group discussions, can reach out to CCCAC directly.

Since 2014 CCCAC has trained more than 12,600 adults in child sexual abuse prevention through the Darkness to Light program. Carroll County alone is the largest county in the state of Georgia to have 10% of its population certified and is one of only five counties to reach the tipping point goal. Robinson, who has served as Prevention Coordinator for more than five years, is hoping to get Haralson and Heard counties to reach the same goal.

“We are trying to prevent families from having to come in in the first place,” said Robinson. “Our statistics are shocking. In 2020 well over 300 families came into the center to have forensic interviews conducted. Just this year we have conducted more than 40. So our huge goal is prevention.

“We are protectors, and our goal is to just prevent child sexual abuse from happening in the first place and keep spreading awareness,” continued Robinson. “Just knowing I have helped even one family from prevention—that just makes me feel better about the job I am doing.”



Photo: Brittany Shadix, *The West Georgian*

PROVOST COMMITTED TO ENRICHING STUDENTS’ LIVES

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

UWG’s new provost and senior vice president for academic affairs, Dr. Jon Preston, started in his position on Dec. 1, 2020 and is committed to serving both UWG students and the Carrollton community.

As a resident of Carroll County for over 20 years, Preston has enjoyed the cultural community of the West Georgia region and has seen firsthand how UWG greatly contributes to the area.

“I believe that higher education is a great way to serve others and really increase and improve the lives of the community,” said Preston.

UWG is currently implementing its new strategic plan called “Becoming UWG,” which is focused on making UWG a first-choice university that provides an enriching experience for students. Preston plays a large role in this plan as it focuses on improving the student experience, which is one of his main goals as acting provost.

“What I’m looking forward to in serving as provost is being as impactful as I can to help more students be more successful,” said Preston.

Preston has held positions at other University System of Georgia (USG) institutions including Kennesaw State University, Clayton State University and Georgia Tech. In his previous role at KSU, he served as the dean of the College of Computing and Software Engineering and also served as Faculty Executive Assistant to the President and Department Chair in Computing.

“West Georgia is not an institution in isolation,” said Preston. “I can work with the other institutions across the state, and I have great colleagues and can bring some of the innovations from those colleagues to the University of West Georgia.”

One challenge for Preston in his role is the decline of face-to-face conversations with students and faculty because of COVID-19. The pandemic has caused many social interactions, both personal and professional, to shift online.

“We’re all missing out on that face-to-face interaction,” said Preston. “That in-person experience is fantastic.

“My heart goes out to folks that are suffering through this time,” continued Preston. “The toughest challenge we have is maintaining that balance of safety as well as that enriched campus experience that students are looking for.”

Despite this challenge, Preston has been able to speak with some students and faculty via online platforms to gain an understanding of what UWG needs most. Some educational and experiential improvements are already underway. With Affordable Learning Georgia Grants from USG, the university will be able to create online textbooks free to students. There are also new momentum initiatives that USG has for focusing on students’ success. The Momentum Center on campus provides convenient services for students all in one building such as Career Services, Center for Student Success, the registrar and more. These are just a few improvements that are happening under the direction of USG and Preston.

“Removing barriers and improving access is core to what I am trying to do here as provost,” said Preston.

All of this ties back to Preston’s belief that serving others is what humans were put on earth for. His favorite quote from Einstein embodies the idea that a life serving others is a life worth living.

“We are here to serve each other, and the best thing we can do in life is to put others first and to consider them as really important,” said Preston.

LIVING WEST

FREEDOM DRIVE-IN ALLOWS COMMUNITY TO STAY SAFE DURING THE PANDEMIC

By Madison Creech
Contributing Writer

The Freedom Drive-In is a new Carrollton business who is facing the challenges of opening during the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite opening during a pandemic, many UWG students as well as Carrollton locals have enjoyed the Drive-In Experience.

“I’ve had such a good time going to the Drive-In with my friends,” said UWG student, Grace Besau. “I even went with my best friend and her dog to their Pet Night a few weeks ago. The Freedom Drive-In has been such a good business to add to the Carrollton community, especially now during this difficult time.”

Many families and students at UWG have been trying to find ways to get out of their houses while also finding ways to stay safe. The Freedom Drive-In has allowed the Carrollton community to do this in the comfort of their cars. Customers of the Drive-In have the opportunity to order food from their car and have the staff deliver it to them. Each car has its designated parking spot as well, where families and visitors can

walk about to stretch their legs. Despite this success, creating such a lively business during a pandemic was no easy task for the owner of Freedom Drive-In, Patrick Thompson.

“Materialistic things were very hard to get,” said Patrick. “We had started this thing [The Freedom Drive-In] in May of 2020. I created a Facebook page and people loved the idea of it due to the pandemic. We had over three thousand likes in a few days. That kind of gave us the push that we needed. We saw that the Carrollton community really wanted this and we really wanted to give it to them. It’s definitely been a journey and it has been very tough, but it has all been worth it.”

Patrick Thompson is a Carrollton Police Officer, who has a DJ Entertainment Business on the side. When COVID-19 affected Georgia, he decided to make his entertainment background into something bigger. Thompson shared that he essentially did not know how to manage or own a drive-in. It was a big learning experience for Thompson and his staff. A lot of research went into how big the screen needed to be and how to get the rights to the movies that were being shown.

“I definitely think, especially in the times that we are in right now when things are so uncertain, a drive-In is a great option to get out of the house,” said Thompson. “You can social distance and be safe. It’s outside—you have plenty of space to walk around and get fresh air, and we even have headphones that you can rent during the movie if you don’t want to be in your car. It’s a way to be safe and enjoy a movie with the people you love.”



Photo courtesy of Freedom Drive-In

WELL BEING @ UWG: A WELLNESS APP FOR THE STUDENTS AT UWG

By Samara Marshall
Contributing Writer

The University System of Georgia launched a program with the UWG Counseling Center called Wellbeing@UWG in February. This program is designed to help students have access to Counseling Center services straight from an app on their phone known as Campus Well where you can locate the UWG services from within the app.

“The Board of Regents for the University System of Georgia put together a mental health initiative,” said Dr. Lisa Adams, the Director of Counseling at the University of West Georgia. “The app has come out of this initiative, and this app is available for all 26 of the USG institutions, including West Georgia. Each one is a little different because every campus is a little different so it’s tailored for the particular student needs that we have here.”

This online platform gives many resources like access to counselors and interesting articles to offer guidance and advice about mental health. What is also really unique about Wellbeing@UWG is that it is an app which provides additional add-on services to what they already provide at the Counseling Center now.

“The app is going to give you links to different resources that are available on campus and off campus,” said Adams. “Students can still call the counseling center at (678)-839-6428, just after hours when they are in crisis they would press option two. That is typically the best

way to get a counselor 24/7, 365, but we also now have Krispy Campus, which has expanded our services significantly, and you can meet with an off-campus counselor.

“For example, if we had a waiting list with counseling, students can go off campus and see somebody quicker, and they would have five sessions at no charge,” continued Adams. “Then there is the Wellness app which is full of all types of information and all kinds of techniques that students can use. It has a link to a program called I care, which deals with specific things. If a student has anxiety, there are modules that can help lessen your anxiety. We are trying to come at it from all angles as what we know as our traditional counseling center, there’s going out into the community, doing things online, some of it is just different information, so this app gives us a lot more options than we had before in ways that students can access mental health resources.”

After downloading and browsing the app, there are many articles for many different subjects. Some categories include campus, academics, body, food, mind, money and so many more. These articles are written by many different professionals in the psychology, counseling and mental health field.

“The articles are written by professionals like counselors, psychologists, psychiatrists, and other wellness professions,” said Adams. “You will see that there are things in there about eating right and exercising so those would be written by exercising psychologists and nutritionists so people who are specialists in those fields.”

With such great articles and resources available to the students on this app, it is very beneficial to all students. The app allows for the Counseling Center to meet students where they are, especially during a time of social distancing, it is beneficial for students to receive the care and advice they need from the comfort of their home.

“This app expands the number of counselors we have for students, so that’s always a good thing,” said Adams. “There is also more readily available information through the app as well and being able to expand the services of the counseling center is a great thing as well.”

LIVING WEST

DR. HAZEL COLE COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE

By Abby Grizzard
Contributing Writer

Dr. Hazel J. Cole is an Associate Professor and Public Relations Concentration Head in the Department of Mass Communications at the University of West Georgia. Dr. Cole has had many achievements throughout her career in Public Relations both within the university and within her independent career.

She has co-developed the Public Relations curriculum as well as the experiential learning lab Blue-stone at UWG. In addition to these accomplishments she has received various awards which include the Visionary Leadership Award for Curriculum Development, UWG Best of the West Values Recognition Award and was a nominee for the Outstanding Mentor Award.

Cole has been an active member in university academic activities. She is a prominent member of the Mass Communications department and holds positions within the department itself.

“I serve an administrative role as Public Relations Concentration Head, one of the top concentrations in the department,” said Cole. “In addition, I serve on various committees informing strategic planning and program development, accreditation, curriculum development, Media Day executive and planning committees, championing mentorship of students and junior faculty, executing strategy focusing on internal and external audiences and community engagement, as well as leading various initiatives through service to build a comprehensive brand.”

Cole has contributed greatly to the university through her communications courses, but has also had many opportunities of working and interacting within Public Relations.

“I’ve been blessed to have had more than one career and leadership opportunities,” said Cole. “My teaching experience is vast and includes a stint at an institution in Louisiana prior to joining UWG in 2012, as well as serving as adjunct professor at a couple institutions in Mississippi.

“In addition, the depth of my professional experience in the industry ranges from entrepreneurship to working in senior management at one of the largest PR and Advertising Agencies in the southeast,” continued Cole.

Cole is currently working on various projects to continue her professional growth and development. One of these current projects is her co-authored journal article titled “A Case Study of BBQ Becky-Themed Memes.”

“In 2018, Jenifer Schulte was captured on video after calling the police on a Black family for having a barbecue by a lake,” said Cole. “Within days after the video went viral, the incident developed into a meme and she became known as ‘BBQ



Photo courtesy of Hazel Cole
Becky,’ a series of photoshopped images of a woman in sunglasses calling the police on a group of Black people for anything ranging from having a cook-out, to playing golf, to living in the White House.

“Thus, this important study proposes to fill this void in the growing body of research on memes, and employs CRT to study the public conversations that emerged following the incident in the park,” continued Cole. “Specifically, through qualitative content analysis this study examines user-generated content such as memes and social media posts on Black Twitter and reflects how understandings of race were shared through the articulation of different memes during the 2018 incident. The most salient themes characterized the BBQ Becky incident as using narratives related to ‘the Black experience’ and ‘history repeats itself.”

Cole, also acts as a mentor for students and is able to offer insight for students pursuing mass communications. She encourages students to begin their professional development as early as possible in order to become a successful, respected member of the communications community.

“Students must focus and imagine themselves in decision-making positions,” said Cole. “Then they should begin to build and cultivate relationships with professors and business leaders; gain experience through volunteering and internships; and sharpen soft and hard skills.

“In addition, students should develop a success plan by finding a mentor, working at a high level in and outside the classroom, engage in properly developing networks and develop the art of networking, be willing to step outside a comfort zone to learn something new or experience a new approach to problem solving,” continued Cole. “Finally, students should become business, media, and social media savvy, practice professionalism daily, in their appearance and in all forms of their written and spoken communication, as well as images posted online. There’s a lot of work involved, but it begins with respect for self and others.”

Cole’s contributions to mass communications and public relations have made great impacts on students and faculty at both the university and professional level. She has been granted many awards and academic achievements and will continue to do so as she pursues future endeavors.

ENTERTAINMENT



Photo courtesy of Amazon Studios

REWINDING 'THE MAP OF TINY PERFECT THINGS' OVER AND OVER

By Abigail Cummings
Contributing Writer

With Netflix dominating the streaming field, it can be hard for other companies to compete, but Amazon has managed to do just that. Amazon's new original movie, *The Map of Tiny Perfect Things*, based off of the short story by Lev Grossman, gives a new twist to the age-old classic *Groundhog Day*. The movie follows Mark, played by Kyle Allen, as he navigates living the same day over and over again. Suddenly, his day deviates from the pattern and he meets Margaret, played by Kathryn Newton. In meeting Margaret, Mark is determined to try to understand why they keep living the same day over. He also wishes to keep Margaret around as she is the only person who understands what he is going through. To achieve this he proposes that the two team up to find all of the perfect things that happen on that day and document where and when they happen. The two fall in love and Mark learns the real reason why this is happening to him. The familiarity of the storyline is in part of what lends to the movie being a success. Ever since the achievement of *Groundhog Day*, many movies and TV shows have taken the idea and put their own twist on it. Therefore, many who enjoyed the *Groundhog Day* notion have also taken a liking to these interpretations as well. Though because the premise of *Groundhog Day* has been used so much, the movie can feel a little derivative at times, but thankfully not always because of the spin it takes.



Towards the end of the film there is a giant plot twist that completely turns the film on its head. Eventually the audience learns that the repeated day does not revolve around Mark, but in fact it revolves around Margaret. We learn that she wished for this to happen to keep her mom from dying because her mom is on her deathbed. This plot twist is what takes the movie to the next level. It shows how difficult it can be to face death and how in order to be happy sometimes one has to let go. Margaret knows that allowing everyone to live the same day over and over again isn't right and in order to be at peace with her mom's passing she needs to allow herself to be happy as well. The teenage romance and relatability also makes the movie a hit. Most people relate to the feelings that the characters have in the film and can remember how they were as teenagers making the film nostalgic. How the characters start out as two people on a mission and in the end, wind up realizing that they are the answer gives the audience hope that they two can have a romance such as Mark and Margaret's. The chemistry that the two actors portray on the screen gives a believable performance of the love they share. In the end, the coming-of-age movie allows for a new interpretation on the concept that *Groundhog Day* offers. *The Map of Tiny Perfect Things* allows for a heartfelt story to shine through and is sure to bring together those that watch it.

DENZEL WASHINGTON IS BACK WITH 'THE LITTLE THINGS'

By Brittany Hall
Contributing Writer

The last Denzel Washington movie was produced two and a half years ago. Now a new one has reached the big screen. On Jan. 29, *The Little Things* starring Denzel Washington premiered on HBO Max as well as debuted in theaters. Denzel fans were yearning for the movie and expected it to live up to its hype, especially since it was the first Warner Brothers title of 2021. Let's just say *The Little Things* was needed to bring a little excitement into people's lives during these tough times. In *The Little Things* there's a local deputy sheriff named Joe "Deke" Deacon, played by Denzel Washington and a detective named Jimmy Baxter, played by Rami Malek. The year is 1990 and there is a serial killer on the loose that is torturing and murdering women in the Los Angeles area. Sheriff Joe and Detective Jimmy decide to work on the case together to find the serial killer. After more women are found dead, Sheriff Joe and Detective Jimmy start to narrow down their suspects and the prime suspect is a creepy man named Albert. They both have a gut feeling that Albert is their serial killer. However, Albert has a reputation of being a self-professed crime bluffer. With no evidence besides their gut feeling, Sheriff Joe and Detective Jimmy decide to stalk Albert until they find evidence. Is Albert actually the Los Angeles serial killer or is he crime bluffing again? Is Albert the only creep in the movie? Who else is hiding secrets?



Photo courtesy of Warner Bros.

The Little Things was categorized as a thriller/crime movie. The overall tone of the film is mysterious and it establishes the theme that nobody is trustworthy. There are plenty of moments in the movie where the viewer does not know what the characters are referring to, who did what and which character is hiding the biggest secret. Flashbacks are also cleverly used to keep the audience restless and eager to find out who the killer really is. This movie was incredible. It had my eyes glued to the screen because the mystery within the plot kept me guessing what the ending was going to be. Because of the unpredictability in the movie, viewers will be relieved to find a movie that leaves them with a shocking ending. Actors Denzel Washington and Rami Malek executed their roles well. Both actors kept a muddled tone that matched with the plot. That is why fans were excited to hear that another Denzel movie was coming to our screens. Instead of seeing Denzel's character as the hero, like fans are used to, they are left to question what his actual role is in the movie. Overall it was the mystery in the film that made it engaging. All the little things in the movie worked together to make it a truly phenomenal cinematic piece.

ENTERTAINMENT



Photo courtesy of Johnathon McKenzie

STUDENTS GET INVOLVED WITH UWG'S GOT TALENT

By Kayla Henderson
Contributing Writer

The UWG’s University Recreation (UREC) held its first UWG’S Got Talent Show and Expo, featuring nine live performances and an expo with four student-run businesses on Feb. 23.

The event was created by six UREC graduate students, as part of their graduate program. This is tied to a year-long professional development curriculum that ensures readiness post-graduation for future career opportunities.

“This year we decided on the Business Expo and Talent Show because we thought it would be fun to do and we have never seen anything like it done before,” says Lucy Caples, a Graduate Assistant at UREC. “We each knew students that either had a special talent or a business so we thought that this was something that UWG needed.”

To ensure maximum safety for both acts and attendees, the event was held in the Campus Center Ballroom, allowing up to 60 patrons while complying with social distancing guidelines and each seat was spaced six feet apart. Masks were also required for entry and during the entirety of the event.

“We had a much larger turnout than we anticipated,” says Caples. “I was worried that we would not have a crowd for our performers and expo participants, but many students were excited about this event, which made the event more fun.”

Acts for the show were judged by a panel of four judges including UWG first lady Dr. Tressa Kelly, UWG Head Football Coach David Dean, the Student Government Association President, Khareem Leslie and Title IX Coordinator, Erin Williams. Judges scored acts based on factors such as overall performance, creativity and overall performance effort.

After tough deliberations, judges awarded first place to Levi Vande Kerkhoff for his performance of “As She’s Walking Away” by the Zac Brown Band. In second place, Ella Gilbert for “On

My Own” from *Les Miserables* and third place was given to Aijalon Allen for “Best Part” by Daniel Caesar featuring H.E.R. Winners were given prizes including \$100, \$50 and \$25 MasterCard gift cards for the first, second and third place acts.

“I felt that the night went very well. Everyone involved seemed to have a lot of fun and we got many compliments afterward,” says Caples. “There is obviously some room for improvement, such as more reach out to areas involving talent and small businesses, more entertainment between the acts, maybe a more organized host script. Overall, however, I believe this event went a lot better than past GA [Graduate Assistant] events.

“I would love to see the talent show be a yearly thing,” says Caples. “However, I’m not sure that it can be. We are required to create a new program from scratch, so I do not know if they will allow the GAs to do this exact event again. While I wish with all my heart that this was a yearly thing, I do not think it will be.”

Photo: Kayla Henderson, *The West Georgian*



SPORTS



Photo courtesy of Joshua Cato

UWG JUNIOR IS NAMED GSC EAST PLAYER OF THE WEEK

By Brittany Hall
Contributing Writer

UWG’s men’s basketball forward, Jalen Sasser was named Gulf South Conference (GSC) East Player of the Week after an impressive game at Lee University.

Jalen had 22 points, seven rebounds and three steals during the game which led the team to their third straight win. The six-foot junior had a career high shooting 10-of-12 attempts against Lee.

“My best game was against Lee University,” said Jalen. “I feel like I was GSC East Player of the Week because I came off the bench averaging 15 points and helped my team with three wins while coming off the bench.”

Throughout the week Jalen has shot 20-of-29 from the field and had a combination of 16 rebounds in the past three games. This is Jalen’s first year playing basketball for UWG. Although this is not the basketball season he imagined, he still managed to be a good contributor to his team.

“It has been a rough year playing with COVID-19 and playing every other week because of teams catching COVID-19,” said Jalen. “It is tough, but we have it together now and we are getting through the season.”

The UWG male basketball team is currently 10-6 and has clinched a spot in the Gulf South

Conference Male Basketball (GSCMBB) Championship. Jalen says he is focused and motivated going into the championship. Jalen also mentioned that him and his team plan on winning.

“My mindset is to make it to the championship game locked in with my teammates and to play our best basketball together and stay focused,” said Jalen. My teammates and coaches keep me motivated by all of us trusting each other on the floor and us winning games. All of us are focused and have one goal and that is to win a championship and that is what motivates us to go hard.”

Jalen has been playing basketball since he was seven years old and has been in love with the game ever since. Therefore, winning GSC Player of the Week and clinching a spot in the GSCMBB Championship is a huge accomplishment for him. However, he believes he can win both a championship with UWG and GSC Player of the Week again if he continues to play the way he did against Lee University.

“Honestly, I feel like I can win GSC Player of the Week again,” said Jalen. “All I have to do is go into the game with great energy and put up good numbers and play hard every second I am out there on the floor.”

SERVE, SET AND RETURN TO THE SEASON

By Abigail Cummings
Contributing Writer

College life changed drastically in March of 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic, but most students hoped life would return to normal come the fall semester. College athletes have had some of the hardest times because their seasons have either been restricted or nonexistent to comply with COVID-19 guidelines. Senior year was certainly different for volleyball player Hannah Flack, but she is getting another chance to play this spring and looking forward to the season.

Hannah has played volleyball at the University of West Georgia for three seasons since the fall of 2018 as primarily a right-side hitter. Prior to playing for UWG, she played at Shorter University in Rome, Georgia and all throughout high school. Her decision to play at UWG was not difficult to say the least.

“I have always enjoyed playing sports and getting the opportunity to play in college has been a gift,” said Hannah. “I decided to play volleyball in college because I would get to continue playing volleyball while getting my college education paid for.”

What Hannah couldn’t anticipate was that her senior season would be delayed due to a pandemic. Because of this, the season was pushed back until this spring and has been shortened compared to the regular length of previous seasons. This shortening is to allow for some game time

for the athletes instead of none at all. Though Hannah still misses how long the seasons were prior to the pandemic.

“It has been extremely strange [not playing],” said Hannah. “I have missed the comradery with my team and being able to release stress and exercise by playing volleyball every day.”

UWG has made it a top priority to take care of their athletes, implementing many new procedures. Athletes are now required to wear masks at all times, even when weightlifting. Also, there is mandatory surveillance testing and covid testing that occur three times a week for all volleyball players due to the rapidly approaching season. With the precautions, Hannah feels her safety is of the greatest importance.

“I feel safe with the precautions in place to play volleyball,” said Hannah. “Our coaches and athletic training staff are very proactive and cautious involving COVID safety measures.”

The shortened season starts at the end of February and only has seven games on the books compared to the season before the pandemic which consisted of 33 games. Many other universities have chosen to opt out of the season entirely, so any season at all is something Hannah is glad for.

“I’m thankful that we are able to still play some semblance of a season this year,” said Hannah. “Having the season moved back a semester has allowed for more preparation and I’d rather have a reduced game schedule than no schedule at all.”

Even with the shortened season, the team has been practicing in order to get the most out their time competing. With only seven games, Hannah wants to enjoy what she can since this will be her last season. Her hopes are that the team is successful and able to play the entirety of the season without anyone contracting COVID-19.

“It is definitely going to be different from past seasons I have participated in, but I believe that it will be a successful and enjoyable season despite all the hurdles,” said Hannah.