



MASS COMMUNICATIONS  
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Image: Andrew Slay, *The West Georgian*

## Mass Communications Hosts First Careers and Connections: Virtual Networking Event

By Brittany Shivers  
*Editor-in-Chief*

UWG's mass communications department is hosting its first ever Careers and Connections: Virtual Networking Event on Wednesday, April 14 and Thursday, April 15. The event will be organized in four separate meetings with one in the morning and one in the afternoon on both days to give students more opportunities to attend the panel discussions. Panelists include UWG alumni and media professionals from all over the country.

"Each panel will be unique and contain professionals from various backgrounds and different time zones," said Kelly Williams, Assistant Professor and organizer of the event. "That's the one advantage of doing all this online connecting and zooming is that it does open doors to people that we haven't been able to engage with in a really long time."

The virtual event gives current UWG students the opportunity to network with industry professionals despite the cancellation of Media Day this year due to COVID-19. Media Day is the largest annual event hosted by the mass communications department, where students can network with professionals, acquire internships and even find future jobs in their field. Starting next year the department hopes to use the virtual event to supplement Media

Day and the two will coincide, according to Williams. By continuing the Careers and Connections: Virtual Networking Event

in the future, UWG alumni professionals who are too far away to attend Media Day can still be on a virtual panel and provide industry insight to students.

"I'm excited about some alumni who are out in California who never get to make it back to Media Day, but now through this they can participate," said Williams.

All of the communications concentrations will be represented across the panels, so students will be able to ask questions related to their particular field of study. There will be approximately 20-25 panelists total with four to six professionals sitting on each panel. Some of the panelists include McKenzie Benefield, On-Air Personality, Production Director and Promotions for Dick Broadcasting; Tristian Brown, Content Transmission Specialist for WarnerMedia; Patrick Snipes, Senior Video Editor for Complexity Gaming/G4TV/Square Enix and Charlotte Maumus Co-founder & CEO of memwris.

"There should be somebody from each industry at each panel," said Williams. "If a student is in class and can't make one then there's still a chance in the other meetings that someone will connect with them."

Although students and professors have been conducting the majority of meetings virtually during the pandemic,

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Williams said this is not just another typical online event.

"I know people might look at it and say 'oh not another online event,' but we really are trying to make the best of the situation," said Williams. "We're saying if we're going to be online, let's go for some unique opportunity, so we do and we have filmmakers from different places in the United States and different PR professionals. We're really trying to cast a wide net and make this an opportunity worth attending."

Students of any major or concentration are welcome to attend, and registration for the event will be on the resource page that will launch early next week on the UWG website. The event will be beneficial for students preparing for their post-graduation careers according to Williams.

"We don't want to just waste anybody's time," said Williams. "This will be to a student's benefit to come, and even though you're meeting professionals in this setting, you're still making that connection, and there's people with a lot of great experience."

NEWS

Freedom Drive-In Concert Follows Social Distancing

By Madison Creech  
Contributing Writer

The Freedom Drive-In off Bankhead Highway, just had their first Drive-In Concert on March 12 with Carrollton native and country singer, Noah Hicks as performer of the night. When the Drive-In Concert experience was first announced there was concern about how to handle safety measures with COVID-19. How were they going to be able to make this happen while allowing their customers to stay safe and socially distance themselves while enjoying live music? “With this concert, and our other ones coming up, you have your own personal tailgate spot right beside your car,” said Owner of Freedom Drive-In, Patrick Thompson. “This allows families and groups of friends the freedom to stretch their legs, walk around and also enjoy the music being played with people you love and care about. I’m personally really excited about this opportunity because it’s another way for drive-ins to allow people to be safe and enjoy themselves without putting themselves or others at risk.” Many people were standing on top of tailgates of trucks as well as on top of cars. Many people enjoyed this newfound way to watch live music. People were singing along to the music and smiling in the crowd. Individuals attending the concert also had the opportunity to order food from the concession stand and have it delivered to their tailgate

Conversation on Race: Prince Harry and Meghan Markle Interview

By Kayla Henderson  
Contributing Writer

One of the most controversial topics of 2021 began from an exclusive CBS interview hosted on Sunday, March 7. Prince Harry and his wife Meghan Markle sat down with Oprah Winfrey for an hour and a half long candid conversation on life behind closed doors in Buckingham Palace. Since January 2020 when Prince Harry and Meghan Markle stepped down within the royal family, their life has been kept from the headlines in hopes of obtaining some sense of normalcy. For years Meghan had been in the center of attacks while she was a member of the royal family. Tabloids ran countless stories deeming her unfit to be in the monarchy. “In those months when I was pregnant, all around this same time, we had in tandem the conversation of he won’t be given security, he’s not going to be given a title, and also concerns and conversations about how dark his skin might be when he’s born,” says Meghan during the interview. The couple admits during the interview that they feel race had a major part in how they were treated during their time as members of the royal family. The couple did not share who voiced these concerns to them at the time. In response to the video, a statement from the queen on behalf of the royal family states: “The whole family is saddened to learn the full extent of how challenging the last few years have been for Harry and

spot by the staff. Freedom Drive-In is very cautious with COVID-19 Guidelines as well as allowing their community to enjoy movies and now live music. “The cool lights, the awesome country music and the amazing friends I went with really made the night so much fun,” said UWG student, Bailey Williams. “It was really reassuring knowing that I was able to enjoy live music again, all while being able to stay safe from others that also wanted to enjoy live music again. It’s honestly been so long, and it was really a great feeling and experience being able to enjoy it once more.” Their next concert lined up is March 28 and features Zach Williams, Mac Powell and CAIN. Many of the individuals in the Carrollton community enjoyed the live music and overall experience, allowing the Freedom Drive-In to book more concerts for this upcoming summer season. Photo courtesy of Freedom Drive-In



Meghan. The issues raised, particularly that of race, are concerning. While some recollections may vary, they are taken very seriously and will be addressed by the family privately.” Prince Harry and Meghan have been strong voices in response to race-related issues such as the death of George Floyd and advocates for Black Lives Matter. The couple shared they hope that this interview will prompt Buckingham Palace to become more vocal on issues related to race. In 2020, Buckingham Palace did not release any formal message condoning racism. The interview has created a mass movement for change in the monarchy. Recently, Buckingham Palace announced that they are looking into hiring a Diversity Czar. This position would aid in addressing issues within Buckingham Palace and for outside events. The couple’s interview shared an insight into how Harry and Meghan were living during their time and they hope it will create a larger impact going forward. “I was trapped but I didn’t know I was trapped,” said Harry during the interview. “Like the rest of my family are, my father and my brother, they are trapped. They don’t get to leave and I have huge compassion for that. “For the family, they very much have this mentality of, ‘this is just how it is. This is how it’s meant to be. You can’t change it. We’ve all been through it,’” continued Harry during the interview. “What was different for me was the race element because now it wasn’t just about her. It was about what she represented.”



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# NEWS

## UWG's Commitment to Diversity and Inclusiveness

By Kayla Henderson  
News Editor

The House of Representatives has recently passed the Equality Act which protects Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) individuals as an expansion of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. The bill would prohibit any discrimination against LGBTQ Americans. This prohibits LGBTQ Americans from being discriminated against based on sexual orientation and gender identity in employment, housing and other services as well as access to public accommodations, including public universities systems.

UWG is committed to providing resources and equal opportunities for all LGBTQ students on campus through specialized resources and programs. LGBTQ students are currently protected under Title IX of the Education of Amendments.

Inclusiveness is one of UWG's Core Values to ensure that UWG is a place where all students are welcomed. The school offers several resources on campus to help LGBTQ students, including access to the Counseling Center.

"The Counseling Center has a very clear diversity statement on the front page of our website, stating its support to LGBTQIA++ members of our campus community," says Taimyr Strachan-Loudior, Therapist and LGBTQIA++ Liaison at the Counseling Center. "Further counseling offers support and advocacy for LGBTQIA++ students. Counseling can help students understand themselves better and build frustration tolerance and resilience, which are protective for members of the LGBTQIA++ community."

On-campus resources are available to students that allow a one-on-one approach for help. All on-campus resources are available free of charge to current students.

Photo courtesy of the Associated Press

"UWG Counseling Center offers counseling services to all students here at the university," says Strachan-Loudior. "Additionally, the counseling center has an LGBTQIA++ Liaison, as well as a Diverse Populations Counselor on staff who are tasked with building relationships with these students and assisting in advocacy efforts.

"All counseling staff is licensed and trained to meet the needs of a diverse student population," Strachan-Loudior continues. "The current LGBTQIA++ Liaison has received extensive training in providing systemic therapy to individuals under the LGBTQIA++ umbrella."

Aside from services offered at the Counseling Center, UWG also has additional initiatives to incorporate LGBTQ student focus. A few of these options include Housing and Residence Life which offer Transgender students room assistance upon request, all-gender restrooms are available throughout the UWG Carrollton Campus, individualized care for LGBTQ students at Health Services and a wide range of resources through the Center for Diversity and Inclusion.

"We have the SAFE (Sexuality Acceptance for Everyone) Group, which is specifically for LGBTQIA++ students," says Stachan-Loudior. "In this group students have a safe space to process events and connect with other students."

The university has also created UWG Cares, a program that allows students to find resources if they are in need of immediate assistance. More information on UWG Care can be found on the UWG website.

If passed by the Senate, the Equality Act will begin to go into effect sometime later this year or beginning in 2022.





# NEWS

## COVID-19 Vaccines Becoming More Readily Available

By Brittany Shadix

*Contributing Writer*

President Biden recently announced all adults will be eligible for COVID-19 vaccinations at the beginning of May. This silver lining comes on the one-year anniversary of the coronavirus being named a global pandemic.

What might this announcement mean for residents of West Georgia? If the President can deliver on his promise, vaccines will be more accessible to local medical facilities, and all who are willing to take the vaccine could be vaccinated by summer.

Since last January, statistics from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) show nationwide that nearly 30 billion confirmed cases of the virus have been reported and approximately 540,000 of those cases resulted in the death of the carrier. With the state of Georgia accounting for almost 2% of the total deaths, healthcare professionals are eager to get more people vaccinated.

“They’re ramping up the delivery sites to the point that if the vaccine is indeed made available by then, I think we can get everyone vaccinated who wants to be by summer,” said Medical Director of Health Services for UWG, Dr. Eric Heine. “But there’s still a lot of vaccination hesitancy in the country, so it’s really hard to predict how that will affect us reaching herd immunity status.

“They still have to wait and see if the variants make a difference or not, but I think especially for West Georgia that ability to return to ‘normal’ lifestyle on campus is going to be dependent on getting enough people vaccinated,” continued Heine.

UWG has expectations to return to full operations in the fall as vaccines become more readily available to students, faculty and staff on campus. This past Tuesday, Governor Brian Kemp announced all adults aged 16 and older are eligible for the shot in Georgia on March 25.

“We understand that masks and distancing interfere with the normal college experience,” said Heine. “We understand people desire to socialize and interact in pre-pandemic ways, but I think the campus administration has been very responsive and has tried to make campus life as normal as possible while protecting those at risk.

“I’m very hopeful,” continued Heine. “I know this has been a very difficult year for many

*Photo courtesy of Tanner Health System*

people, not only from the restrictions themselves but what those restrictions did to the economy and people’s jobs. I really do believe we will see this virus die down quickly especially as people get vaccinated. That’s what I’m strongly encouraging.”

As UWG begins scheduling its first round of vaccinations after being approved as a point of distribution by the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) and receiving its initial allocation, other local health organizations are well underway administering vaccines to eligible candidates including the Tanner Health System.

“It’s starting to build in terms of deliveries of the vaccine,” said a Communications Lead for Tanner Health System, Debbie Bolding. “We’ve been waiting for the vaccine. We have many people who are interested in getting their vaccine shot. They recognize how important it is in fighting COVID-19, but the vaccines have been in such tight supply across the country, so they have not come in as quickly as we would have liked.”

As of mid-March, Tanner has administered more than 14,000 vaccinations at its scheduled clinics. The medical center began offering vaccinations internally to its employees, staff and volunteers in December, and has now started scheduling appointments for the general public that meet the DPH vaccine eligibility requirements.

The process of receiving the coronavirus vaccine is similar to that of other vaccines. Candidates are asked a series of questions relating to their medical history and allergies, and if approved, they are given their vaccine. Depending on which vaccine was administered, they are scheduled for their second dose.

“Whenever we see that we have vaccines, we try to make them available as quickly as possible,” said Bolding. “Our goal is to ultimately provide it to everyone in our community who wants one as quickly as possible, but vaccine availability is the determining factor.

“We’re seeing changes in the numbers,” continued Bolding. “We’re very hopeful about the impact of the vaccines in continuing bringing down the number of positive cases. We want our community to be safe and healthy and get it back to how we remember it. We’re very gratified to be a part of the process and making it a safer, healthier place by being able to deliver these vaccines.”





# NEWS

## Greek Life Allowed to Have Socials with COVID Guidelines in Place

By Madison Creech

*Contributing Writer*

Since the beginning of the academic year, many organizations in Greek Life as a whole have been wanting to hold social events in their organization houses as well as at different venues. After months of negotiating between the Center of Student Involvement and different Greek Organizations, these organizations have been allowed to request to have social events once again.

Although fraternities and sororities alike have been given the opportunity to host events, there are still proper guidelines that have been put into place for them to follow. In December of 2020, the Center of Student Involvement partnered with campus leaders to draft these guidelines for UWG students that are interested in hosting social, educational, and diverse events.

“During the academic year, fraternities and sororities maintained an interest in hosting social events,” said Director of Student Engagement and Leadership for UWG, Dr. Lakiesa Rawlinson. “To support their efforts, campus leadership drafted guidelines adhering to national, state and local guidelines to allow our organizations to engage the student community safely and responsibly.”

Each organization that is interested in hosting an event on or off-campus, must follow certain guidelines that comply with the UWG institutional COVID-19 expectations as guided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Georgia Department of Public Health. The organizations interested in hosting an event must draft an event proposal that includes the following information: Name of event, a brief description of the event, venue address, COVID-19 guidelines, as well many other requirements. The organization must also submit a proposal to their national headquarters and chapter advisor for approval to acquire official documentation of the approved event. If all steps are followed,

they must then submit an Event Reservation Form with supporting documentation to CSI for review and to approve the event.

The extended requirements to hold an on and off campus event has allowed for UWG to keep closer track of which students are attending what events, and who they come in contact with, should they come down with COVID-19 in the future. UWG has these requirements and guidelines in place in order for all students to remain safe, as well as provide guidelines for off-campus venues that might not have any.

“Following guidelines from public health officials and the University System of Georgia, the Center for Student Involvement promoted and supported engagement opportunities for the UWG community amid COVID-19,” said Rawlinson. “Involvement in co-curricular activities helps students grow holistically and develop meaningful connections with others.

“With these goals in mind, we employed several strategies to assist our students in having social events – safely and responsibly – while adhering to national, state and local guidelines,” continued Rawlinson. “Some of these strategies included: requiring organizations to obtain support from national headquarters before hosting a social event; providing a copy of the event venue’s COVID-19 guidelines to ensure compliance; scheduling logistic meetings with groups to discuss safety protocols, and providing personal protection equipment and physical distancing signage to support these groups efforts.”

As a result of these new requirements, Greek organizations are now able to have on and off campus such as formals, 80’s in Aspen, semi-formals and parties. UWG is eager to give students the opportunity to have social events where they can grow as individuals and engage actively with their university campus.



## SPORTS

# UWG Holds Spring Tailgate & Football Game

By **Brittany Shadix**  
Contributing Writer

A sense of normalcy returned to UWG campus as football fans packed the stadium for the wolves first tailgate and practice game of the year Thursday, March 11. Approximately 1,300 students, alumni and fans came out to University Stadium to watch the scrimmage between the blue and white teams for the first time since homecoming last fall.

The four-hour event was packed with opportunities to connect with fellow students and campus organizations at the pre-game tailgate that have otherwise been restricted to online interactions. Eleven organizations gathered on the hill for music, food and games including University Recreation, Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, Alumni Association and Greek fraternities and sororities.

“The Center for Student Involvement (CSI) is ecstatic about providing students with on-campus and in-person events,” said UWG Director of Student Engagement and Leadership, Dr. Lakiesa Rawlinson. “We know involvement fosters learning and helps students to feel connected to the institution.”

The first 200 students to arrive at the tailgate received a t-shirt and wristband that granted free, unlimited concessions for the entirety of the event. All guests could also enjoy individually poured snow cones and fresh cotton candy without charge as they watched the scrimmage. With the stadium full of howling fans alongside the cheerleading squads, the band and mascot Wolfie, it felt much like pre-COVID times.

“For this spring game, our planning framework differed in that all campus stakeholders co-created the experience and introduced many new ideas,” said Rawlinson. “Our focus was on oper-

ational outcomes with the plan to draw on information learned from the spring game to inform future athletic experiences and activities. Overall, the working group feels that the operational, planning and policy changes yielded positive outcomes and increased overall participation and tailgating.”

For students who felt uncomfortable attending the in-person event, CSI connected with them through a live-stream of the game. Although the pandemic endures and restrictions are still in place to limit the spread, like socially distanced seating between groups of four and mask requirements inside University Stadium, more in-person events are resuming.

“CSI has offered a wide range of in-person and virtual opportunities to foster student development and growth,” said Rawlinson. “Most in-person events include an online participation option to allow students an opportunity to engage based on their comfort level.

“Virtual fatigue has been the biggest challenge,” continued Rawlinson. “Few students have participated in virtual events when an in-person option was available. Our goal is to continue providing meaningful engagement and co-curricular opportunities for students in a safe and responsible manner.”

Football fans were not the only ones excited to be back at University Stadium. The players returned to the field ready to face off against one another in the scrimmage coached by seven UWG alumni who are now playing professionally in the Canadian and National Football leagues. Despite not having played an official game since 2019, the team of more than 100 athletes was prepared for competition as evident by the blue team making a comeback in the fourth quarter to win the scrimmage 28-23.

Photo: Brittany Shadix, *The West Georgian*





# ENTERTAINMENT

## Feminism at its Finest: 'Moxie' Movie Review

By Abigail Cummings

*Contributing Writer*

Female empowerment has become a common theme in today's society. Netflix's *Moxie* tells the tale of a group of high school girls who are tired of the unfair gender roles bestowed upon the student population. High school rebellion pairs nicely with feminism in this coming-of-age film.

*Moxie* is the story of a shy high schooler named Vivian who has her eyes opened to the misogynistic ways in which girls and boys are treated in her school. To combat these unfair standards, Vivian creates a feminist club called "Moxie" in which she organizes a newsletter geared towards the females in her school. In the newsletter, she urges the student body, especially the girls, to take action against the unfair equality at the school. Actions that include drawing hearts and stars on their hands, and school wide walk outs to show that they stand with the female population.

One of the many reasons why this movie is a success is that it plays off of the prominent theme of the Me Too movement. The movie helps to give light to an important cause that has swept the nation in recent years. It puts the movement into the perspective from a teenager's point of view, which allows for younger audiences to be able to grasp its concept. It also gives the older audience the chance to see how the movement and gender standards affect today's youth.

This film has hit the nail on the head when it

comes to the theme of "sticking it to the man." Everyone loves a good rebellion story, whether that be in the form of *The Patriot* or *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*. The audience wants to see the underdog overcome the oppression and win the battle. In *Moxie*, exactly this happens, as in the end, the girls of the school start changing how the adults view the gender rules and the boys see how unfair the rules are.

The movie is also one of finding out where one fits in the world. In high school, everyone is trying to figure themselves out and learn what they want to do with their lives. Vivian struggles with trying to do what is right and trying to do what she has been told is right from the adult figures at the school. She comes to the conclusion that the environment at her high school is not one of inclusivity and that someone needs to be the one to start the revolution. While watching the film I sympathized with her in this regard because we have all struggled to find our place in the world and have wanted to be the one to stand up for what is right.

The film sends the message to the population, young girls especially, that they have the power to change the world. It gives hope to those that watch and instills the value that everyone should be treated equally. It gives light to a narrative that needs changing to fit with the society that we want to live in today.

In the end, *Moxie* is a movie that is going to have people coming back for more. It's heartwarming, rebellious and gives hope that just one person can be the beginning of change. Netflix has certainly created another hit that the entire family can enjoy.

Photo courtesy of Netflix



## Daniel Kaluuya is the Black Messiah

By Brittany Hall

*Contributing Writer*

*Judas and the Black Messiah* was released on HBO Max this February but was taken off the site on March 14. Although the Warner Bros confirmed that there was a 31-day release deal with HBO Max, this is a film that should extend the window. The film's embodiment of a true story and starring actor Daniel Kaluuya gained the attention of many fans.

Fred Hampton, played by Daniel Kaluuya is the chairman of the Illinois chapter of the Black Panther Party in Chicago during the late 1960s. Fred becomes a main target of the FBI and as a result they want him dead. In order to complete this mission the FBI hires William O'Neal, played by Lakeith Stanfield. William is assigned to join the Black Panther Party and take down Fred. The FBI tells him that if he keeps giving them insight about what is occurring inside the Illinois chapter of the Black Panther Party, they will return the favor by having his previous charges dropped. With William working undercover for the bureau, the FBI believe that everyday they are one step closer to taking down Fred and the Black Panther Party.

*Judas and the Black Messiah* was categorized as a biographical drama film. The overall tone of the movie is mysterious and it makes the audience anxious of what is going to happen next since there is always a fear of William getting caught. The tone sets the theme that sometimes people can't trust one another. In the African American community, it is expected that everyone sticks to-

gether. However, some people are willing to turn their back on their own people to save themselves.

This movie was interesting, especially since it was based on a true story. It is also informative to those who have never heard of the story of Fred Hampton. After I saw the movie, I found myself researching information to learn more about Fred Hampton and his impact on the Black Panther Party.

Actors Daniel Kaluuya and Lakeith Stanfield executed their roles well. Both actors kept a tone that matched the plot accurately and helped the audience understand what was and still is occurring in the African American community. Overall, the mystery and fear made the movie more interesting. Everything in the movie blended perfectly to make an incredible cinematic piece.

Photo courtesy of Warner Bros







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# Careers and Connections:

## A Virtual Networking Event

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- Four panels of communication professionals
- Different professionals at each session
- Ask your questions about careers and opportunities



**April 14 & April 15**  
**10-11:30 a.m. & 3:30-5 p.m.**

**QUESTIONS?**  
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