



Photo courtesy of Erich Bergiel

# Richards College of Business Will Hold Study Abroad Trip in 2022

By Emily Allen  
Contributing Writer

After two years of the COVID-19 pandemic, Richards College of Business can now proceed with their Study Abroad trip for spring break 2022. In the past University of West Georgia has sent management and marketing students around the world to give students the chance and ability to engage in local customs and cultural contexts. The Richards College of Business Study Abroad program gives each student a chance to help their career, add to their resume and increase their social skills.

“Richards College of Business has been doing the Study Abroad program for about 14 years uninterrupted until the last two years,” said Erich Bergiel, Professor in the Management Department. “We had a virtual study abroad last year due to COVID-19. This [school] year we are scheduled to go to South Korea during spring break in the spring of 2022.”

The program introduces each student to business cultures as well as

the culture itself such as the people and the food. This trip is a short duration trip that works with a third-party provider to schedule visits with businesses and events during the seven to nine days.

“This will be the first time the Richards College of Business has gone to South Korea, and we are really excited for this opportunity,” said Bergiel. “We normally limit the trip to about 20 to 25 students and these students are a mix of both undergraduate and graduate students where they can earn up to 6 credits which is 2 classes.”

This trip includes roundtrip airfare, housing for the duration of the trip, travel insurance, transportation and assistance of knowledgeable faculty to help students get to know the site. Breakfast is provided as well as other meals for students.

“We used to buy a lot of meals and we just found out that students eat differently so we now let them figure it out,” said Bergiel. “Instead of buying them lunches, many students

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want to go to McDonalds.”

During this trip they plan on visiting local businesses like Samsung and cultural activities like the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ). Bergiel mentions that as of right now there COVID-19 vaccination requirement and a passport to go on the trip. Richards College of Business is not strictly requiring the COVID-19 vaccination but in South Korea vaccination is required.

“South Korea is still requiring a quarantine period,” said Bergiel. “We are hoping that that is going to change by the spring, and we are kind of gambling on that, but we have worked with a third-party provider to come up with a backup plan somewhere closer in Europe.

“We will stick with South Korea as long as we can and if nothing changes, we will have to switch countries or something in January,” continued Bergiel. “Of course, students will have the option to change and decide if they will go or not go depending on their interest.”



# NEWS



Photo courtesy of Associated Press

## Why Imperfect Physicians Are Good for Patient Outcomes

By **Amanda Clay**  
*Health Correspondent*

“You can’t win ‘em all, kid.” These words were said to me as I left the operating room. The expression on his face was one of defeat and disappointment. The tone of his voice was strained. It was the last operation of the evening and he was not able to successfully pass an artificial lens into the patient’s eye. When I met with him again the next day, he explained that there will always be failures as a surgeon. At the time I was a third year pre-medical student and this was my very first time shadowing a doctor. I was eager and excited to be in an operating room and witness all the action—but never did I expect someone that I admired so deeply to have a moment of weakness in front of me. I walked away that night with an even greater level of respect for him that I had initially. His attitude regarding his failures was one of acceptance, not deflection or avoidance. Two years later, I firmly believe this story contains an invaluable lesson: doctors should be allowed to fail.

Society tells us that good doctors don’t fail. We have all heard of the horror stories involving physicians that operated on the wrong limb, missed a life-threatening diagnosis or dropped a baby after a delivery. We often equate human error and failure as being synonymous with negligence. This may be true in certain circumstances. In other situations, however, inevitable human error, surgical complications or other unforeseen issues are behind poor patient outcomes. The current climate of medicine attempts to solve this problem by encouraging physicians to strive as close to perfection as possible, not taking into consideration that every human task will contain marginal errors. Perfectionism or an in-

ability to accept defeat will not change this. This is not to say that reduction of error should not be the overarching goal to increase patient safety. In fact, American surgeon and writer Atul Gawande argues in his book, “Complications”, that the culture of fear and silence in the medical community surrounding mistakes, along with the “bad physician” theory leads to an inability to facilitate good conversations surrounding possible solutions to human error in medicine. During the Mortality and Morbidity Conferences, he argues, emphasizes individual errors, but does not allow them to be seen as a failure of a process or system.

To improve the systems and procedures that lead to better patient outcomes, there must first be an acknowledgment that these mistakes will happen as a matter of when—not if. Perfection is simply not an effective tool of prevention

This anti-failure culture has deep roots in the premed years. In the earlier years of my time in college, I was often surprised by the intensely competitive and cutthroat environment, an environment that was often cultivated and allowed to thrive by science professors. There was tension and palpable animosity that I observed between students as I made my way through my pre-requisite classes. There was little room for error if medical school acceptance was the goal, I was always told by professors and advisors. Students attempted to be the best and the brightest out of everyone, and with this came the assumption that their classmates are fierce competition.

Characters of a good physician include teamwork, humanity, compassion, self-sacrifice and altruism. This is the type of culture that should exist instead of an obsession with competition and perfection. If we desire to train a generation of exemplary

physicians, they should understand that part of science is failure—and that egos have no place in medicine. The development of these positive character traits must start in the pre-med years and should be emphasized by every science professor, medical school admissions counselor, and academic advisor just as much as GPA and MCAT scores. Being a good physician is more than simply how well you can perform in organic chemistry. It is also how well you can navigate the difficult situations and failures that are bound to happen.

I once talked about these perspectives in a class speech that I gave. A student interrupted me. Perfectionism is a good thing, he argued. His perfectionistic drive gave him a motivation to get things done and to do them right. Why would anybody want a surgeon operating on them that is not a perfectionist? It sounds like a logical point. Most people feel this way and I would agree that healthy forms of perfectionism can positively affect work ethic. This does not solve the underlying problem. Attempting to be perfect diverts attention away from real solutions. So long as humans are performing a task, there will always be errors. Studying for an exam for hours on end can help increase your score—but this does not mean that you will receive a 100 on every exam.

A doctor can prepare meticulously for an operation, but this does not take away from the fact that there could be complications, unforeseen issues and human errors that take place. Perfecting a system or procedure to better patient outcomes requires a level of submission and humility in what you do not know—and like the ophthalmologic surgeon that I shadowed, a level of acceptance in failure, with the overarching goal of developing solutions to these failures.



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## NEWS

# The Delta Variant's Impact on the Stock Market: Rise or Fall?

By Kinadi Dill

Contributing Writer

With the Coronavirus' emergence in the beginning of 2020, the global stock market crash it created is still prevalent. Businesses, schools and essential facilities such as hospitals and clinics are being hit significantly, leaving many people with a growing fear about where things are headed next with the unexpected virus.

With cases continuing to rise, the FDA has approved the Pfizer vaccine which is now available to all people 12 years or older nationwide. The vaccine does not prevent the spread of a new strain of the virus, commonly referred to as the Delta variant. As an investor, this is crucial information to take into account when deciding where to specifically invest money, especially from a beginner's standpoint. Among those affected by

the stock market crash are stock investors, shareholders and full-service brokers. "There are biopharmaceutical companies, such as Moderna and Pfizer, who have shot up in earnings since the Delta variant outbreak. Moderna's stock price has risen more than 400% since the emergence of the Delta variant, and Pfizer has increased more than 25%," said Isaac Jones, a senior business major here at the University of West Georgia who has actively participated in the stock market since 2016. "Personally as an investor, the idea is to trade around current events, so seeing financial gain in these specific biopharmaceutical companies because of [COVID-19's] presence has been particularly critical to pay attention to," said Jones. This aligns with various tech-

nical charts throughout the stock market which depict a current rise in numerous stocks despite the extreme spread of the virus. Many investors in the industry are paying close attention right now more than ever as there are many increases occurring and positive trades impacting the markets this year. "Understanding your investment goals, doing adequate research and thinking long-term is key when it comes to investing," said Jones. "These strategies are actually what has helped me make informed decisions when analyzing the market and putting my money into certain companies. As a beginner, looking into the market right now may seem a bit intimidating at first, but there is a lot of room for profit and growth as well. I definitely recommend investing."



Photo courtesy of Associated Press



# NEWS

## NICU Nurse Amelia Cook Offers Insight Into The Life of a Nurse

By Brittany Mersfelder  
Contributing Writer

The COVID-19 pandemic has created a nationwide burn-out for many nurses. This burn-out not only affects those who work in the COVID-19 unit but other departments throughout the hospital. Amelia Cook, 23, is a NICU nurse at Piedmont Hospital in Columbus, Georgia. She graduated from college in 2020 and began her career as a Registered Nurse.

“It will be a year in November,” said Cook. “[My favorite thing about my job] would be the babies and the families. I really think it’s amazing to watch them grow up and their parents be so thankful that I was a part of that.

“It’s also super sad when a baby leaves. There was this one kid, I saw her when she was first born,” continued Cook. “She was 25 weeks old. I took care of her for so many days. She was intubated [at first] and then she was able to take her own oxygen. She started tak-

ing a bottle. I was taking care of her the day she went home, and her mom wanted to tell me goodbye. She is now getting ready to start preschool.”

Cook has enjoyed being a NICU nurse and adores her career path. Since she started in the middle of the pandemic, she doesn’t know what life was like at Piedmont before COVID-19. Her department has had many nurses leave their practice in recent times, creating a shortage of nurses.

“It’s crazy,” said Cook. “It’s really affecting the NICU. Within the past few months, we have had 10 nurses leave because of the stress. That has largely affected our patient to nurse ratio.

“[The shortage] has made the job more physically demanding,” continued Cook. “Every three hours we do ‘touch times’ where we check on the babies’ vital signs, change diapers and assess them. The patient to nurse ratio in a NICU setting is

three to one nurse. Right now, it is four to one. We are required to pick up two overtime or extra days per two weeks.”

Cook was inspired to be a pediatric nurse when she was hospitalized herself at Children’s Hospital. She was in the hospital for a long time because she had a brain tumor. She was able to survive while her nurses helped and inspired her. Cook aims to work at Children’s one day but for now she plans to stay close to home with her family and her significant other.

“First of all, make sure you are in this for compassion and not just for the money. Make sure you are in this for the right reasons, and you truly love this because if you don’t you are going to hate your life,” said Cook. “It really is physically demanding. Make sure you go into the specialty you love. I went right into my specialty as a new graduate and I’m doing fine. Go into Pediatrics.”



Photo courtesy of Amelia Cook

NEWS

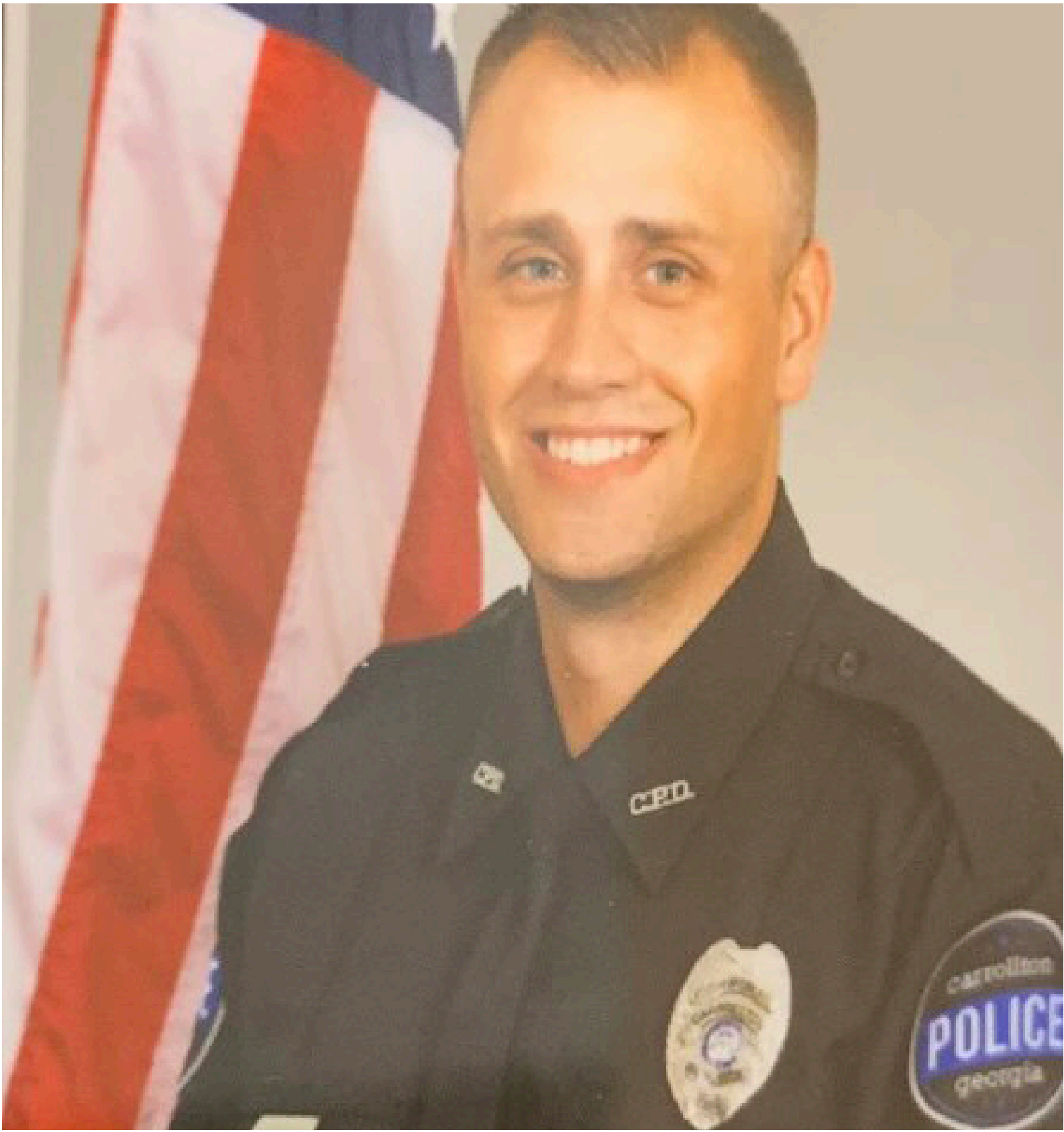


Photo courtesy of Cpl. Richard Cheatwood

Police presence on the square increases as college students return to campus for the Fall 2021 semester.

By Emma Pence  
Contributing Writer

During the last few weeks, Carrollton Police Department (CPD) have had more officers patrol the square between 11 p.m.- 2 a.m. Adamson square is the location of the majority of Carrollton’s bars including Irish Bred Pub, Plates on the Square and the City Tavern. As classes have started back students are all moving back into housing bringing the crowds and underage drinking back to town.

When asked about the numbers of drinking citations and physical altercations. “These stats could easily be pulled to be exact, however the amount of underage drinking citations, drug arrest, physical altercations and crashes associated through the late-night hours on Adamson Square is significantly lower through the winter and summer months,” said Cpl. Richard Cheatwood #266.

“The amount of arrests from August-November are almost triple,” said Cpl. Cheatwood For Carrollton locals and of age consumers, this can be frustrating to be around and unsafe for the young adults who are involved in such crimes.”

Cpl. Cheatwood shared in-

sights of the actions that Carrollton Police are taking to help reduce underage drinking and to keep their community safe, happy and under control. The presence of officers on the square increases when volume of calls is allowed. They are there during peak busy hours on the square and busier nights like football games and holidays. The officers are placed around to enforce and influence better behavior of the college students.

“The underage drinkers typically tell on themselves by visually being heavily impaired, being carried by friends or even lying down on the sidewalks,” said Cpl. Cheatwood. It is often that officers get flagged down to come help seek medical aid to these minors.

Another way of keeping the peace and monitoring the crowds on the square during late nights is by completing walk-throughs multiple times a year. This is an occasional practice and happens when there are multiple complaints of underage drinking inside these businesses or other crimes taking place inside.

“This could be from drug use

to physical altercations. However, if and when we do “walk throughs, we walk through EVERY business open late on Adamson Square not just the business in question. A report with stats is also documented thereafter,” said Cpl. Cheatwood.

If someone is found guilty of underage drinking, they are given an underage citation. A CUA is typically followed by a fine or probation and having to appear in court.

With these efforts pushing forward, the officers with CPD have high hopes of decreasing the physical altercations on, off and in the parking lots of the square. They are also striving to eliminate the crashes that are caused by the impaired when leaving the square. The statistics have proven the added presence has directly affected those numbers.

“[CPD] wants everyone to understand that we want all the students and everyone else to get out and have a good time,” said Cpl. Cheatwood.

While these officers carry out their duties as policemen, the community is thankful for making the town safer for everyone.



# ENTERTAINMENT



Photo courtesy of UWG Athletics Department

## UWG Football Returns for 2021 Season

By Victoria Mitchell  
Contributing Writer

As the leaves begin to change and the weather begins to get cooler we know football season is right around the corner. The University of West Georgia's football team is back on the field this season. Because of COVID-19, the team was unable to hold a 2020 season. The team was excited to have a season this year. They have been practicing hard and are ready to show off their skills.

The first game of the season was held September 2. The Wolves traveled to Jefferson City, Tenn., where they played Carson Newman. Right guard Austin Donaldson said, "Going into this game we knew that Carson Newman had a great defensive side and that a couple players were good." Since it was the first game back for the team since COVID-19 the boys

were excited and nervous to be back on the field. "We prepared for all the blitzes and schemes that Carson Newman was planning on running" Donaldson stated. "After many practices our hard work paid off and we were able to make good throws and run the ball down the field." The Wolves defense was hot, only allowing Carson Newman to score one touchdown. The Wolves won 45-7. What a great way to start off the season.

This past Saturday the Wolves had their first home game. Many students were excited to attend since it was the first game in over a year. People had tailgates with food, cornhole and games to win Wolves attire. Looking around the stadium, students were having fun and excited to be there to support their fellow Wolves.

"After a huge win in week one we knew week two would be challenging going up against Morehouse, a fast and physical team" said Donaldson. The Wolves started the game out very strong offensively and were able to attack Morehouse's defense. From the start of the game to the end, the Wolves played more physically and aggressively than Morehouse. This led the Wolves to score 47 points while our defense shut them down and did not allow any points.

The Wolves are off to a good start for the season and are looking forward to continuing their win streak. Donaldson says he looks forward to continuing to practice hard and take home more wins this season. The Wolves will be facing Delta State this Saturday at home starting at 6:00.