



Photo Courtesy of Associated Press

CDC says mixing booster brands is safe

By Emma Pence
Contributing Writer

Tens of millions of Americans are now able to get their booster shot following their first dose of COVID-19 vaccines. Those who chose to get the Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine must wait six months after completing their second dose and those who got the Johnson & Johnson/Janssen vaccine are eligible for their booster after nine months post dose.

After a panel was held with medical professionals with the CDC Oct. 21, they have deemed it safe to mix and match your booster shots. Although they are recommending sticking with the same brand, people are allowed to choose from any of the three booster shots regardless of the first vaccine received. The CDC provides further information for guidance on who could benefit or be at risk from choosing which booster to get. Things like age, sex and underlying conditions can affect these risks and benefits.

The professionals on the panel still have not deemed the booster shots to be necessary but they want them to be available to all of those who want to receive it. There is just not enough data to support that yet. There is heavy concern among the country that since the first vaccine mandate passed that this is soon to follow. “The door just got

bigger and bigger and bigger, it got wider and wider with each step, the companies got what they wanted, the administration got what they wanted.” said Dr. Paul Offit, director of the Vaccine Education Center at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia and a member of the F.D.A.’s vaccine advisory committee

Many Americans are taking the extra step that is available to them by getting the booster to protect themselves and loved ones from catching the virus. People are using the boosters as well because of the anxiety they have about COVID-19 and hating the state of affairs in the world. The general public has been biting the bullet to be able to get back fully to a pre pandemic lifestyle of working, attending concerts, shows and traveling. A lot of those people have become mask free to those with the vaccine with the aid of the vaccination card. No one has deemed those invalid without the booster shots at this point in time.

As the research continues with these booster shots, Dr. Celine Gounder says they are collecting data on something that has already been released before the data was confirmed and the booster proven effective. The New York Times article, Are Vaccine Boosters Widely Needed? Some Federal Advis-

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ers Have Misgivings, says, “the perception is that the horse is out of the barn, and there’s not really much you can do at this point,” said Dr. Celine Gounder, an infectious disease specialist at Bellevue Hospital Center who has previously advised the Biden administration. “The fact is, you can’t have this confusing mess — it’s going to create more problems,” she added, referring to mixed signals from the White House and federal scientists.”

Regardless of your choice, knowing that the research is being conducted and it is safe to get, the booster shot may benefit in protecting people from COVID-19, the Delta Variant and any other strand of the virus that may stem. It is important for those who decided to get the boosters to read up on the risks and benefits that are currently provided by the CDC. Those who are traveling, are frontline workers or have susceptible loved ones they are in close contact with are making the right decision to take all precautions to protect themselves and others from the virus. Lowering the spread of COVID-19 will be pivotal for returning to a normal world and a better economy in the future and the best way to do that is to be fully vaccinated if eligible.

NEWS

Abnormal “Double Dip” La Nina Development in Pacific Ocean

By **Brittany Mersfelder**
Contributing Writer

The Pacific Ocean is currently experiencing a weather phenomenon, called La Niña, where the temperatures of the water are cooler. La Niña creates weather phenomena around the world; this includes phenomena such as warmer and drier winters for Georgia. Scientists are measuring and tracking the temperatures of the Pacific.

University of West Georgia professor, Dr. Shea Rose teaches meteorology classes and provides insight into La Niña.

“It’s part of the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO),” said Dr. Rose. “It’s an atmospheric-oceanic relationship that is occurring over the Pacific Ocean. The oceans and atmosphere are highly linked. The Pacific Ocean is huge, so [La Niña] has impacts worldwide.

“We look at the broad trends with this,” continues Dr. Rose. “This is a climate feature. What we have seen historically is that when we have a La Niña in place, we

tend to see drier and warmer temperatures in our region.”

La Niña is known as an extreme phase of the Enso cycle. The opposite extreme is known as El Niño. These cycles are Quasi-periodic, which means they will occur once every three to seven years. La Niña and El Niño are naturally occurring phenomena.

“When you have La Niña set up, trade winds are typically a little stronger than normal,” said Dr. Rose. “This is all related to pressure changes and temperature changes in the ocean. There’s some shifting of pressure and temperature over the Pacific Ocean. One thing you can see is the cooling of the ocean temperature as the trade winds are pushing the warmer waters to the western side of the Pacific.”

Typically, these cycles do not occur back-to-back each year; however, this year’s La Niña is what is known as a “double dip” La Niña, according to Dr. Rose.

“That means that we just had one and we came out of it over the summer and we’re

going right back into it,” said Dr. Rose. “If we look at last year’s winter, it was a little drier than normal, warmer than normal. [This winter] might be very similar.”

A rarity in the state of Georgia is the possibility of getting snow in the wintertime. With La Niña, that possibility is not entirely lost. A prime example of La Niña would be the winter of 2020. Christmas Day in Carroll County had temperatures in the mid 60s, rather than our usual temperatures of the 50s or below. January of 2021 yielded slight snowfall in northern Carroll County, as well as the northern counties in Georgia.

“Having the right temperature, the right moisture conditions and surface temperatures, it could happen,” said Dr. Rose. “What goes on with our jet stream and our polar vortex; those you have to watch. If the right situation comes up, we could have snow even though overall you may still have warmer temperatures on average. That doesn’t mean we won’t.”

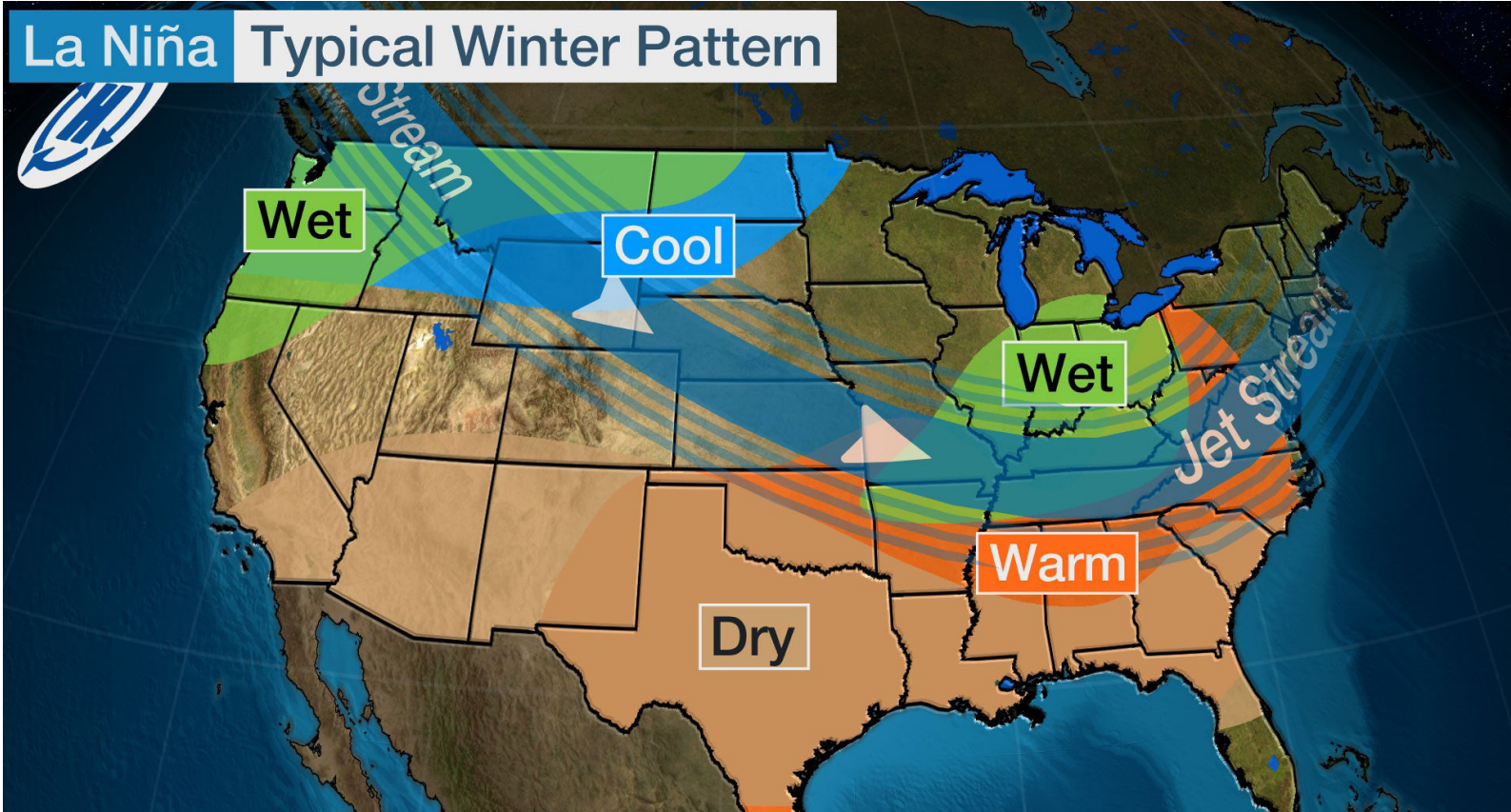


Image Courtesy of The Weather Channel

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NEWS

From Augmented Reality to Student Business Startups: The Future of Innovation at UWG

By Amanda Clay
Health Correspondent

Inside Pafford Hall, in the Office of Research and Sponsored Projects (ORSP) is where the newly hired Vice President for Innovation and Research, Dr. Daryush Ila, is hard at work, passionate, excited and full of great ideas; Dr. Ila has cutting-edge plans in store for the future of research at UWG.

Prior to assuming his current role on July 12 of this year, Dr. Ila was Associate Vice Chancellor for Research and Technology Transfer at Fayetteville State University (FSU). He previously led a team of student researchers that submitted their innovative research project to NASA, which was accepted and won the first-place award in the NASA technology transfer innovation competition. Now he has plans to help UWG students and faculty reach their full innovative potential.

The plan involves attracting external funding, encouraging small business startups by faculty and students, creating interdisciplinary research facilities, the creation of a verification and prototyping laboratory/gallery and encouraging more engagement with students in research projects.

Increasing external funding is one of the most important starting points of the initiative.

“Our original target was to increase external annual funding by 5%, and at least 15% in the annual total dollar value of the proposals submitted for external funding although we are way ahead of that target, already,” said Dr. Ila.

He also hopes to cultivate an interconnected community across all academic fields. This is one of the reasons Dr. Ila was interested to hear about

the augmented reality (AR) project that is taking place at UWG involving the history, college of education, art, archeology and computer science departments. Faculty is currently working to receive a grant for the project.

AR involves digital images being superimposed over the real world, allowing for all types of advancements to our everyday lives as well as various fields, such as medicine. AR can help doctors to manipulate models of broken bones in patients during surgery, for example.

“[Faculty and students] are working with the history department to turn the history of the university into superimposed, augmented images,” said Dr. Ila. “With your cell phone and glasses, you can direct it towards buildings on campus, which will allow for 3-D visualization.”

This culture of connected academic disciplines is part of the plan for success when it comes to business startups. Under the new initiative, faculty and students will be supported and encouraged to pursue joint publications, patents, and copyright filings behind their current research endeavors in tandem with the business department.

“I am working with the College of Business so that we can encourage student startups,” said Dr. Ila. “That is the first step.”

The new research initiative rests on three main pillars, which are relevance, competitiveness and placemaking. To be relevant, Dr. Ila says the university must bring value to the local community and develop strong relationships with the local and regional community to address its specific needs.

“What is the strength

of the university, and what is the need of the university?” said Dr. Ila. “Trying to identify those, it took me some time. This city has a huge agricultural community and a large medical center. The second thing I observed in addition to their initial core strength, is that the company invests in innovation and realization of other marketable widgets, and we at UWG can be involved in this endeavor.”

Being competitive requires networking with industries and companies, along with attracting small businesses and major corporations to the university. To coordinate this networking of experts in different industries, Dr. Ila said creating a North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code will allow industries to be able to locate the university for expertise in different areas. NAICS codes allow industries and businesses to be able to find experts in other industries and acquire their services with minimum searching effort.

An example of this could be police officers working a crime where forensic experts are needed. The NAICS code for a forensic expert input into the system will bring up institutions where these experts can be contacted, including UWG. This is one way of attracting potential customers to UWG with minimum effort during the 21st century.”

“In order to become competitive...we can invest in building strength facilities, or subject matter expertise (SME),” said Dr. Ila. “Industries want to know if we have anyone who can answer their questions or if we have capabilities which they can count on using with no delay.”



Photo Courtesy of Dr. Daryush Ila

NEWS

Roy Richards Sr. Hall Ribbon Ceremony

By Kinadi Dill
Contributing Writer

The brand new Roy Richards Sr. Hall building, located on the University of West Georgia Carrollton campus, is officially completed and ready to serve students, faculty and staff members. Roy Richards Sr. hall will serve as a new home for the Richards College of Business. Funds for design and construction on the large building, which makes up 68,696 square feet, were included in the Fiscal Year 2019 budget by the University System of Georgia for an issuance of \$14.9 million in bonds. Construction began in fall 2019 and was completed this summer just in time for the ribbon cutting ceremony that took place on Oct. 22.

The building will provide a space for business students to learn, improve and advance in their studies; this includes open teaching spaces, technology-enhanced classrooms and collaborative learning environments. The facility has a dozen classrooms which range in different sizes depending on the course. These sizes include classrooms set up for 24-seat seminars as well lecture halls with up to 105 seats. The building also includes brand new computer labs and equipment and 13 collaborative learning spaces open to anyone in

the building. These new features will serve as a great tool for students and the Richards College of Business staff.

“I think this building is a great space for networking,” said Jordan, a student that attends UWG. “This space will also serve as an environment for students to connect, meet new people, and further their learning.”

The ribbon cutting ceremony was attended by the President of the University of West Georgia, Dr. Brandon B. Kelly, faculty and staff associates of the Richards College of Business, students and members of Carroll county elected officials; all played a key role in the development of the building. Speeches were given by the leaders of the groundbreaking project as those in attendance listened and applauded the hard work of the team before the special ribbon cutting took place at the front of the building. After the ribbon cutting ceremony, guests were able to tour the new building, socialize with one another and enjoy refreshments provided by the DineWest team here at UWG.

The building is set to open in the fall 2022, allowing for faculty and students new opportunities for learning and growth.

Photos: Kinadi Dill, *The West Georgian*



NEWS

Students Take on Greek Grind Homecoming Week: Greek Grind Kicked Off Homecoming Weekend

By Victoria Mitchell
Contributing Writer

Homecoming is the perfect time for students and alumni to come together to support our UWG Wolves. The week of homecoming holds events throughout, including events involving Greek life. On Oct. 20, UWG held an event called Greek Grind. This event involves different sororities and fraternities pairing up and competing against other paired groups in a dance battle. Each pair will be given a certain theme or genre of music to dance to. At the beginning of this event, the announcer Faith Bryant, introduced the judges and their association with UWG. The first team to compete was Alpha Xi Delta and Pi Kappa Alpha. Their theme was country music. Their dance was well put together and got the crowd into it. They incorporated songs such as Honky Tonk Badonkadonk by Trace Adkins and Dixieland Delight by Alabama.

The second team to compete

were Sigma Kappa and Phi Delta Theta. Their theme was a neon rave. The third team was Kappa Delta and Chi Phi; their theme was disco. This team presented a very fun presence. They were well prepared. The girls wore black shorts with gold beaded skirts over them. The guys wore nice black pants and white button ups. Team four was Phi Mu and Kappa Alpha; their theme was rock and roll. They had on matching shirts that said rock and roll. Team five was Alpha Gamma Delta and Sigma Nu; their theme was pop culture. This team wore grey sweatpants with cute ball caps on. This team incorporated some challenging dance moves. Team six was Delta Zeta and Tau Kappa Alpha; their theme was alternative. Finally, the last team to compete was Chi Omega and Sigma Chi. Their theme was also alternative. “We prepared for this dance for a while which was fun because it meant I got to spend more time with my sisters and help us grow closer,” said Kayla Amburn, a Kappa Delta member. These teams prepared for weeks in order to ensure that they had the

best dance routine. After everyone was finished competing, the judges then sat down and had to decide who the winner would be. As the anticipation built, music was being played and students all around were dancing and having a good time with friends. The winner of Greek Grind was Alpha Xi Delta and Pi Kappa Alpha. However, they won by only one point. Coming in second place we had Kappa Delta and Chi Phi. “When we found out we only lost by one point we were a little frustrated but at the same time we were excited because we knew both teams were just that good,” said Amburn.

“It was fun to create a dance for others to watch and grow with my sisters in the process,” said Ally Meacom, a Sigma Kappa contestant. “I am sad that it is my senior year and that was my last time to compete,” said Meacom.

Finally in third place we had Alpha Gamma Delta. This event was a great way to kick off homecoming weekend and it was also a great way for students to engage with one another. After the winners were announced the annual homecoming bonfire was lit. Students stood around talking and getting to know each other for quite a while.



Photo Courtesy of The University of West Georgia

English Undergraduate Research Conference: A Celebration of Conversation and Literary Appreciation

By Jannette Emmerick
Contributing Writer

On Oct. 21, LURe Journal in partnership with UWG’s Department of English, Film, Languages and Performing Arts, hosted their annual English Undergraduate Research Conference and LURe Release. After an online conference in 2020, the college and LURe Journal returned in person this season within the Campus Center Ballrooms to celebrate Literary research through poetry, cultural studies, film and many other topics. The conference featured 10 panels divided into three blocks spaced throughout the day, a provided lunch and a presentation from plenary speaker Dr. Carissa Harris, an Associate Professor from Temple University specialized in medieval, gender and women studies among other subjects. LURe stands for Literary Undergraduate Research in English and the journal aims to publish scholarly research in literature, critical theory, film and cultural studies. The journal accepts essays from students all across the states as well as international submissions, selecting unique and powerful papers for every issue. Since 2010, LURe has released an official volume of fine-tuned undergrad essays every year, making this latest publication the 11th volume. This year’s edition holds a variety of topics including an essay discussing Dreamworks’ “Shrek” and another essay centered on the popular game “Among Us”, both written by UWG undergraduates Grace Beagles and Tegan Pederson respectively. LURe Journal and English research in general offers a window into the impact and merit of literary analysis from any medium to better understand and reflect on culture as a whole. For one panel in particular, three undergrad students shared their essays on “Har-

ry Potter” which touched on family, patriarchy and friendship. Other panels discussed poetry, colonialism, propaganda and the value of multimodality among other topics. “With the future of Literature studies, it’s really, really important not to discount popular literature like Harry Potter, reality tv, or memes or whatever. Those are all really important and worthy of our thought analysis because of the reach that they have,” said Dr. Carissa Harris. In her plenary presentation, Harris discussed the virality of memes, which have become the tavern songs or sea shanties of today’s modern culture. Memes and certain stories through fanfiction and spinoffs thrive off of “circulation” similar to how medieval bar songs and fairy tales spread throughout cultures in the past, they all snowball through “collective authorship.” “It can be tempting to uphold medieval stuff as great literature,” said Harris. “But stuff like the carol at the beginning of my talk, was [spread] by medieval pop culture, those are medieval pop songs basically.” Harris opened with a medieval carol featuring “The Shrew” character type, typically shown as a married woman who is prone to ill temper, nagging, scolding and at times violence. Harris pointed out the caricature of “The Shrew” and the subsequent “Sapphire” character type which specifically perpetuates the stereotype of

nagging black wives within heteronormative relationships who serve to emasculate black men and portray aggressive, unfeminine women. Harris elaborates more in her current book project “The Poetics of Rage: Women’s Anger, Misogyny and Political Power in Premodern Britain”. “Because they are stereotypes and they are so pervasive, they have these real life effects,” said Harris, in regards to unhealthy relationships and stereotypes portrayed in entertainment. She does not support cancelling fiction’s use of drama and negative tropes altogether but suggests a mindset of conversation and thought which is exactly what the English Undergraduate Research Conference seeks to promote. Near the end of the conference, the amount of actively engaged attendees surprised the LURe team, including the number of high school students offering questions and discussion points. While the conference held a meager attendance of college students and a surplus of highschoolers, LURe Journal and the Department of English, Film, Languages and Performing Arts appreciated the turnout and panelist participation. The 11th LURe volume will be available in TLC’s Print Services. More information about the event and previous PDF volumes can be found at lurejournal.com.



Photo Courtesy of LURe Journal

