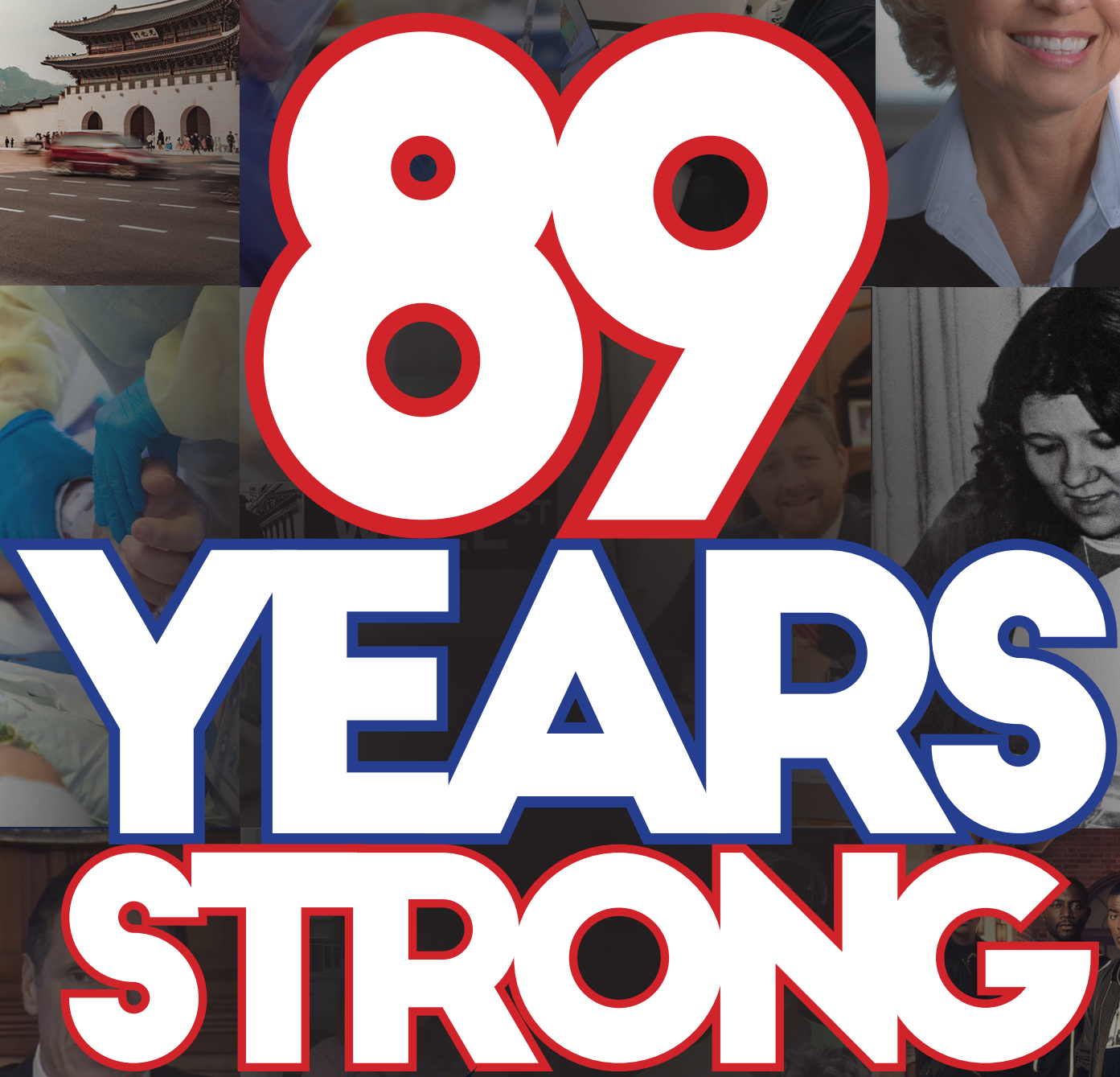




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A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Readers,

Welcome to our 2021 Winter Digest Edition of *The West Georgian*! This issue is packed full of articles from talented writers who have worked hard to deliver you quality journalism right in the heart of our campus.

As *The West Georgian* enters into its 89th year, I am happy to be a part of this timeless piece of ever changing and growing way to share information with the students, faculty and staff of UWG. *The West Georgian* is proud to be for you and your support allows us to continue sharing our voice. A newspaper is a fundamental part of writing our history in print.

I am so proud of the work of each of our writers who have worked effortlessly this semester to be the eyes and ears of campus. Your work is what makes our paper what it is. To our staff; Brittany, Emily, Jada, Andrew and Jackson for allowing me to create this incredible work alongside you. I can never thank you enough for your immense talent and support.

Thank you to Dr. Sewell, for believing that I had what it takes as Editor-in-Chief. Your impact on this paper is undeniable. You have made me better by learning from you.

Finally, thank you to you- our reader. By reading you are supporting the seeking of truth and knowledge. Even if it's just eight pages long.

Kayla Henderson
Editor-in-Chief

“Get the truth and print it.” -John S. Knight

NEWS



UWG HOMECOMING ROYALTY ANNOUNCED

BY VICTORIA MITCHELL
Contributing Writer

Photo Courtesy of the University of West Georgia

Seniors Destinee Swain and Karson Cabe tied for the win of the UWG Homecoming and were both selected as the 2021 Homecoming Queens. The UWG Homecoming Court consists of candidates who will represent various organizations on campus. Once elected to the Homecoming Court they must submit a resume and write an essay on why they chose to come to UWG and what it has meant to them. Each candidate will have to select an organization of their choice in order to raise money to donate to. This year out of all the candidates combined roughly over \$30,000 dollars were raised for different organizations. “I chose to raise money for the general scholarship fund because I am a first generation college student,” said Cabe. “It means a lot to me

because this scholarship has helped me tremendously and I want it to be able to help other future students.” Each candidate has someone of their choice escort them down the field. As they are being escorted different facts about the candidate were stated. Cabe was escorted by Don Norton, who is Cabe’s boyfriend’s father. “My dad passed away from brain cancer when I was 11 and my grandfather who normally escorts me was unable to attend this year,” said Cabe. “It meant a lot to me that Brooks’ dad stepped up and was willing to share that special moment with me.” Cabe’s mom was able to sit back and enjoy watching her daughter during such a special moment of her college career. “To me homecoming queen is

someone who is an overall well representative of the university and role model for young girls,” said Cabe. Cabe is currently involved in Greek life, has over 100 Community service hours and is actively involved in her community. She volunteers with the Girls Empowering Movement (GEM). GEM is a state-wide initiative program for middle school girls to improve fitness levels, promote long term health and to enhance emotional well being. Cabe plans on continuing to help her community and hopes to use her title as homecoming queen in order to do so. “I mainly came to West Georgia because I knew there would be a lot of opportunities for me to get involved and be able to help the community I am in,” said Cabe.



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|--|--|--|--|---|
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NEWS



UWG ALUMNI AND FORMER WEST GEORGIAN REPORTER REFLECTS ON TIME AT PAPER 45 YEARS LATER BY KAYLA HENDERSON

Editor-in-Chief

Photo Courtesy of UWG Special Collections

If you were to look for the office of *The West Georgian* in 1973, you would have to walk down to the end of a dimly lit student center hallway to find a small room. Though the room was plain in itself, the bright and chatty staff always made up for any lack of space or dull appearances. The office had several desks facing a single chalkboard at the front of the room and a lone veteran typewriter that was shared among the college newspaper staff.

In that very room, *The West Georgian* staff was hard at work over the next several decades, remaining the campus' top source for news. The paper featured articles on the terrible parking situation and when students should register for classes.

Fresh out of her high school graduation in 1973, Nancy Lee Badertscher started at West Georgia College as an English major with ambition but was unsure if she had found her right fit. Her interest in writing eventually led her to connect to the journalism program at WGC.

She attributes much of her passion she found in journalism to one woman: her professor, Dora Byron.

"I also had a wonderful teacher, Dora Byron," says Nancy. "She was a former journalist and the only professor of journalism at the school at the time. I don't think I would've gone into journalism had it not been for my experiences at the paper, the yearbook and working with Dora.

"I think the best story I ever wrote was about a basketball game that I covered, knowing nothing about the sport,"

continues Nancy. "Dora Byron was editing the stories we all had written, and when she got to the end of mine, having never made a mark on it, she tossed it in the trash. She had little to say except she had higher expectations for me than that story delivered. I left in tears. 15 years later I was at a reunion of the old staff, and she told me she had always expected good things out of me."

While at West Georgia College, Nancy worked on staff at the paper as a reporter, copy editor and associate editor. She would later become Editor-In-Chief of *The Chieftain*, the college yearbook, in 1976.

Determined, talented and dedicated is how Nancy best described the people who ran the behind-the-scenes of *The West Georgian* in the 70s.

"The people that I worked with at the newspaper were deeply invested," says Nancy. "They worked long hours, dug deep and were deeply committed to getting the true story.

"All of us put in for more hours than we ever got paid for," continues Nancy. "You could hardly go in the newspaper office where somebody wasn't there talking about a story or working on an article. We were the post-Watergate generation, and we didn't mind butting heads with the administration."

Despite her love for the paper and yearbook, Nancy left WGC in 1976 to pursue her degree in journalism, at Georgia State University, as journalism was only offered as a minor at WGC during the time. Before transferring schools, Nancy

worked for two years at the *Warner Robins Daily Sun*, confirming her calling for journalism.

After graduating in 1980, Nancy went on to work for various papers in Warner Robins, Jesup, Statesboro, Gwinnett County, Macon and Atlanta. Her career with the *Atlanta-Journal Constitution* would last for over 15 years.

In 2016, she would begin her current career as a freelance journalist, writing for newspapers such as *The New York Times*.

"I was a reporter, political writer, PolitiFact writer and former Gwinnett bureau editor," says Nancy. "I loved it all, from running the show in my old stomping ground of Gwinnett, covering state Sen.-turned-Gov. Sonny Perdue and putting the spotlight on local and state education issues."

Within her career, Nancy has seen an abundance of awards showcasing her talents, winning over a dozen state and national awards. In 1989, she was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in General Reporting with the *Gwinnett Daily News* for "persistent reporting that revealed expense account abuses by members of the local County Board of Commissioners," as stated in the awards description.

Nancy looks back on her career of 40 years and says she will always remember the stories and work she accomplished.

"The devil is in the details and that every person has a story to tell and an interesting one at that," says Nancy. "Much is changing about the business and much of it is not good. I think it's up to each journalist to be true to the craft, report with honesty, integrity and to be true to yourself."

NEWS

RICHARDS COLLEGE OF BUSINESS WILL HOLD STUDY ABROAD TRIP IN 2022

BY EMILY ALLEN

Copy Editor



Photo Courtesy of UWG Study Abroad to go to McDonald's."

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 want

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



HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDING FREE COVID VACCINES TO UWG COMMUNITY
BY EMMA PENCE
Contributing Writer

Photo Courtesy of the Associated Press

The COVID-19 vaccine is available now at the University of West Georgia through the Health Services on the Carrollton Campus. UWG’s students and faculty can make an appointment through Health Services which will be available Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Not only is the vaccine available to students and faculty but it is also available to immediate family members of employees that are over the age of 12 years old.

The Manager of Media Relations, Sam Gentry, was unavailable to comment in regards to questions about the vac-

cine and its availability.

According to the University Health Center, students and employees are not required to get the vaccine; those who choose not to get vaccinated are encouraged to continue wearing a mask and practicing social distancing.

UWG’s Health Services offers the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine. Pfizer-BioNTech is a two-dose series that is given two weeks apart. Those who have received their first dose at another location are welcome to get their second dose at Health Services by appointment only.

Getting the vaccine has been made easy

by allowing employees to get vaccinated during work hours and having a simple process to make appointments over the phone. There are zero costs associated with the COVID-19 vaccine.

According to the CDC, getting vaccinated prevents severe symptoms such as possible hospitalization, death and helps reduce the spread of the virus in the community. Although the vaccine cannot prevent people from getting COVID-19, it can still be contracted and transmitted.

UWG has administered COVID-19 over 4,000 vaccinations as of October 2021.

LIVING WEST



She has distinctive memories of her first encounters with the field of nursing as a child, where she would often go to visit her stepmother, an operating room nurse. The exciting environment of the hospital, along with seeing how much her stepmother enjoyed her job, were the factors that ultimately drew Britta Thomason into a career in nursing.

Thomason graduated from the Tanner Health System School of Nursing program in 2011 and worked as an ER and travel nurse for six years prior to transitioning into flight nursing in 2017.

Four years after that decision, Thomason hasn't looked back. Currently, she serves as program director and part time flight nurse with the Area Evac Lifeteam at the Dublin, Georgia base, one of 13 bases in the state of Georgia.

"It [flight nursing] is great, I love it," says Thomason. "I wouldn't go back and do anything different."

Thomason says that it can be difficult to get into the subspecialty of flight nursing, as there are only 13 bases in the state with four nurses and four medics hired to each base. Together, the medevac team transports critically ill patients to the hospital through helicopter while also providing lifesaving treatment. To be hired as a flight nurse, three years of experience in a lev-

el one trauma center or other critical care setting is required. Although the job is physically demanding, Thomason says that it is an immensely rewarding work due to the potential to quickly make an impact for a critically ill person.

"We don't get called for people that don't truly need us," says Thomason. "You have the opportunity to make an impact on someone's life and that's awesome."

Flight nursing has become an increasingly crucial part of critical care medicine, particularly in rural areas that often do not contain trauma one hospitals. The sooner a trauma patient receives care at a trauma one hospital during the 'golden hour,' the better their prognosis will be.

"Air Evac Lifetime started in Missouri as a one helicopter company," says Thomason. "The whole premise behind it was to have a helicopter out in a rural area that was already out there that could quickly get to patients and get them to a hospital."

The company eventually expanded to include the 13 bases in Georgia, including one air evac base stationed in Carrollton.

Helicopter teams have played a crucial role during COVID-19 in diverting patients to hospitals outside of the state. When Georgia hospitals were over capacity

Photo Courtesy of Britta Thomason during the initial 2020 wave, as well as during this recent delta virus wave, teams would fly patients to hospitals as far out as Florida, North Carolina, Tennessee and Alabama.

These COVID-19 diversions on top of the usual stroke, heart attack and trauma patient transports have taken a tremendous toll on the healthcare workers.

"This is what is overloading the healthcare system," says Thomason. "All those other [non-COVID-19] emergencies haven't stopped, they are still happening and that's the burden on the EMS and ER systems."

"I have never seen these emergencies not being taken care of," continued Thomason, "but everybody is working a lot harder."

Despite the difficulties of going into nursing during the COVID-19 pandemic, Thomason wants nursing students to know that it is worth it.

"Right now is a tough time to go into nursing, but it is worth it," she said. "Over the past year and a half since COVID-19 started, who in the world was more important than nurses and paramedics?"

"Nursing school is hard," says Thomason. "You're going to have a lot of late nights and early mornings, but it will go by so fast and you have so many avenues to take in nursing. The opportunities are endless."

LIVING WEST



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 “Harry 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

Photo Courtesy of LURe Magazine 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.

LIVING WEST AND ENTERTAINMENT

UWG WIND ENSEMBLE PERFORMS THEIR FIRST CONCERT OF FALL 2021

BY BRITTANY MERSFELDER
News Editor



Photo: Brittany Mersfelder, *The West Georgian*

The University's Wind Ensemble had their first performance of the year on Sept. 28 at the Carroll County Performing Arts Center. The performance was titled "Out of the Ashes" and featured a piece that was arranged by one-and-only Dr. Josh Byrd, composed by Ludwig van Beethoven. This piece was an octet, titled "Op. 103b", which featured four movements.

Rachel Breaux, 21 and flute player of the Wind Ensemble was very excited to be able to play a concert again. "This has been a very long time since we've done three concerts in one semester," said Breaux. "I really like the Puckett piece, it's very emotional. I think everyone is stocked up in terms of expressing their emotions since COVID-19 shut everything down."

"It Perched for Vespers Nine", composed by Josh Puckett, was very percussion heavy and gave a spooky, Halloween feel. The piece was well chosen for the day of the con-

cert, being close to October.

The third piece that was played was titled "Pyrotechnics" by Andrew Faulkenberry. This piece was energetic and fun. Faulkenberry is a young composer with only a handful of pieces released.

The fourth piece is titled "Rhapsody for Alto Saxophone" by Andre Waignein. The piece was a call and answer piece featuring saxophone soloist Alex Payne. The piece contained four movements, giving Payne a chance to show off his skills. Payne rocked the stage with his fellow ensemble.

The last piece performed was titled "Soul to Soul" by Quinn Mason. The piece was very beautifully written and expertly played- a well chosen piece to end the night. Dr. Byrd stated that he specifically saved this piece for last to send us off with something memorable and beautiful.

Breaux is a senior music education major and co-principal in her section. "I love the unity [of the ensemble]," said

Breaux. "[wind ensemble] is an upper-level performance group. It's usually the top players of the high school that ended up being in the Wind Ensemble. Everyone has the ability to be able to [audition]. We play a lot of cool stuff and new music. There's not a lot of directors that emphasize music from minorities or music from women.

"[Dr. Byrd] is the prime example of being a model for his students and everything he does is carefully calculated in his brain," continued Breaux. "He is incredibly intelligent and passionate about what he does. I have never seen somebody with so much passion in an itty-bitty body."

The next concert for the Wind Ensemble will be held on Nov. 12 at the Carroll County Performing Arts Center.

Director Dr. Josh Byrd will be hosting auditions for any interested students for the wind ensemble in late November, early December. If interested in auditioning, contact Dr. Byrd via email at jbyrd@westga.edu.

OLD: THE NEW 2021 THRILLER FILM

BY KINADI DILL
Contributing Writer



Photo Courtesy of Netflix

This past summer, various films hit the theaters, many of which fell under the genre of horror and thrillers. One of these movies in particular, titled "Old", was released in theaters the last week of July. The film, written and directed by M. Night Shyamalan, was available to watch in theaters for two months after its release and is now available on multiple streaming platforms such as Amazon Prime Video, Apple TV and Vudu. Those who weren't able to catch the movie in theaters can now stream the film from home just in time for the fall season when horror films and thrillers are most popular.

The movie introduces the audience to a family who are on a tropical vacation together visiting a beautiful island resort. This island, though beautiful, has a dark side to it that the family is initially unaware of. A sudden turn of events then leads the family to a secluded section of the island where they all begin to age rapidly, reducing their entire life spans into a single day despite only being there for a couple hours.

The family is unable to leave the beach and other characters that are introduced into the plot also face the same dilemma.

This film is very unorthodox in comparison to other films that have been released this year due to its eccentric script-writing. There are several interesting symbols and hidden messages placed within the plot which further sets it apart from other thrillers that are in theaters right now. "Old" also encourages viewers to think deeper about why the rapid change in age is happening to each character and what makes the secluded beach section so mysterious in the first place.

The cinematography, captured by Michael Gioulakis, sets the tone for the film. The film begins with bright colors and draws the audience into the beauty of the island with the vast blue ocean and resort palm trees. This vibrant capture of the island transitions to an aspect of the island that is much more sinister, with dark cave alleyways and a forest that never leads anyone back where they came from. The

repetition of the camera panning out across the island also gives the audience an entire view of the beach. This further emphasizes the dilemma that each character is facing and the fear that begins to set in once they realize they cannot leave the island.

The soundtrack also plays a big part in the thriller aspect of this film as well. At the beginning of the movie, the music and sound effects let the audience know that everything is peaceful; that the family visiting this tropical island are excited and happy to be on vacation. It is later in the film when the conflict arises; the music and sound effects gradually become more daunting, building a sense of anxiety and paranoia as scenes take place and the film progresses.

The film "Old" is definitely a thriller. There is a lot to unpack after watching it for the first time. It's unconventional plot, dynamic characters and concealed symbolism really add to the overall uniqueness, making it a thought-provoking experience for viewers.