



THE FUTURE OF THE SUPERBUG: ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

AMANDA CLAY
Health Correspondent

Photo Courtesy of Associated Press

Antibiotics play a crucial role in the treatment and prevention of common everyday pathogens that we encounter in our daily lives. Prior to the development of antibiotics in the early 1900s, people would die from infections that would be considered mild and easily treatable in modern times. Antibiotics save lives but they are also the cause of a very serious and pressing public health issue known as antimicrobial resistance (AMR); this is the ability of a pathogen to change over time and resist the drugs designed to destroy them. Drugs that are resistant to many antimicrobial drugs can turn into superbugs.

The problem is more pervasive than previously thought. More than 1.2 million people died from antimicrobial resistant infections in 2019, according to a study published last month in “The Lancet” entitled, “Global Burden of bacterial antimicrobial resistance in 2019: a systematic analysis.” This makes AMR more deadly than both malaria and HIV/AIDS, according to the analysis.

The study, which was the most comprehensive estimate of AMR burden to date, estimated deaths and disability-adjusted life years associated with 88 drug-pathogen combinations and 23 pathogens in 204 countries in 2019. Researchers documented AMR mortality to be greater in areas of mid and low-income countries and 1 in 5 of the individuals affected were children under 5.

Dr. William J. Kenyon, Professor of Biology and Co-Director of the Microbiology Certificate Program at the University of West Georgia, says that the main cause of AMR is due to overuse and misuse of antibiotics.

“Widespread use of antibiotics, especially in the decades after World War II, has contributed to the spread of antibiotic resistance,” said Kenyon. “What initially comes to mind is the use of antibiotics in healthcare to treat bacterial infections...overuse of antibiotics in settings such as hospitals has allowed resistant strains to proliferate.

“Another contributing factor is the, often unnecessary, prescription of antibiotics taken at home,” continued Kenyon. “Doctors and other healthcare professionals have prescribed antibiotics to patients who may or may not have a bacterial infection. The antibiotics are prescribed based on the patient’s symptoms, without the proper isolation and identification of a bacterial pathogen...Antibiotics have no effect on viruses.”

Healthcare is not the only major driver of AMR. Prophylactics used to treat livestock on farms are a major source of AMR due its ability to spread off the farm and into the environment.

“Antibiotics are used to prevent bacterial infections of cattle, chickens, and other types of livestock,” said Kenyon. “Rainwater has been shown to carry antibiotics from farms to nearby streams and rivers.”

Kenyon says that some countries have attempted to governmentally regulate overuse of antibiotics in agriculture, but so far this regulation has not had enough effect to significantly curb prophylactic use among farmers.

Antibiotic use alone is not the cause of resistant strains. Resistant strains themselves are already present in the environment. It is only when a population is overexposed to an antibiotic that problems arise.

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“At first, the resistant strains may be a minor component of a larger bacterial population,” said Kenyon. “When the entire population is exposed to the antibiotic, the susceptible strains are killed off, leaving the resistance strains.”

The resistance strains eventually become the predominant strains in the bacterial population and may be able to transfer their resistance genes to other bacterial cells, according to Kenyon.

The authors of the study listed five strategies to address AMR progression worldwide: Infection prevention and control, vaccinations, reduction of antibiotics in non-clinical settings such as agriculture, minimizing antibiotic use and misuse in healthcare settings and the development of new antibiotics.

Kenyon says that it is very possible that we will eventually run out of useful antibiotics to treat disease. This has already happened with *Staphylococcus aureus*, also known as MRSA, which is a common superbug frequently spread in hospitals and long-term care facilities. *Staphylococcus aureus* used to have a variety of antibiotics available to treat it but most strains have now become resistant. Despite this, there is hope.

“We have a much better understanding of bacterial pathogens at the molecular level,” said Kenyon. “This is an intensive area of research, and the United States government has invested heavily in this type of research. With new computer assisted bioinformatics technology scientists are even beginning to design novel antimicrobial drugs from scratch.”

LIVING WEST

JURIED ART EXHIBITION HELD UNTIL FEB. 24

KAYLA HENDERSON
Editor-in-Chief

The University of West Georgia Department of Art, History and Philosophy is holding its annual Juried Art Exhibition from January 27- February 24. The exhibit features original art created by UWG students for display and purchase. A long standing tradition for over 20 years, the Juried Art Exhibition gives students the opportunity in creation and curation of their art. Students submitted their work in November 2021, before being chosen for the exhibit. This year’s

juror, Atlanta artist Carl Linstrum, chose 11 pieces which included winners in 2D, 3D and merit based awards during the reception held on February 3. Winners included: Best in Show 2D, Hannah Swofford and Best in Show 3D, Natalie Moreno. In 2D, Cassidy Thomas, Andrew Hussey and Nancy Vu took home first, second and third. For the 3D category, Eve Olsen, Bethany Blackaman and Abigail Lummus won first, second and third place. Merit prize winners Anndirah Abdur-Rahim, Katherine Slay and Alissa Brooks. “This experience really prepares them to exhibit their work beyond the University in professional venues as well as prepare a portfolio to apply for grad school, grants, artist residencies and other opportunities,” said Senior Lecturer in the art program and Chair of the Gallery Committee, Stephanie Smith. “Students also have

the opportunity to sell their work, which is very exciting. “Students who enter the show gain experience in the professional presentation of their work,” continued Smith. “Both during the initial process for documenting and photographing the work so it looks its best and then if they are accepted they will frame or mount the work which students don’t always have in mind when creating, but serves to complete the work for viewing by an audience.” Students will have several other opportunities to view artwork at UWG, including the “Home 2.0” student exhibit, which will feature student work at the Vault Gallery in Newnan on March 4-31. The exhibit is a second installment from the 2021 show “Home” and will feature work entailing the artist’s perception of what home is to them.

Photos Courtesy of UWG Arts



THE WEST GEORGIAN

EST. 1934

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LIVING WEST



UWG FACULTY MEMBER HONORED WITH REGENT'S MOMENTUM AWARD

TREVOR GONZALES

Contributing Writer

Earlier this month, Carrie Ziglar received the Regents' Momentum Award for excellence in advising and student success. This award was given by the University System of Georgia and represents the best values and standards for schools under the USG banner.

Ziglar is the Executive Director for Student Success at the University of West Georgia. She has been working in higher education for over thirty years. She previously worked at Virginia Tech and Bluefield College. While at Bluefield, she started and developed a student success center focused on testing, tutoring and helping students find a career outlet. She also became the Dean of Students during her tenure.

She arrived at UWG in 2014 as a coordinator of Peer Learning before eventually stepping into the role of Executive Director for Student Success.

"On a day-to-day basis, I triage and manage a bunch of things. We have a very large staff with offices all over campus and a lot of moving parts," said Ziglar. Office locations include the STEM Center at Boyd, the TLC writing center, the school of nursing, Richards College of Business, the college of education, and the main academic advising office in the UCC.

"I spend time during

the day keeping track of what is going on at each location. Our mission/goal in student success is to help all students become better at what they are doing right now. Whether that involves tutoring, meeting an advisor, talking to a peer coach, having a paper reviewed in the writing center, especially in the climate we are in right now, we have to help each other," Ziglar said. The academic advisors provide outreach and support for every student on this campus.

"Another goal is to increase the percentage of students that use academic support services. These services are a set of 'safety nets' for students. Every student 0-120 credit hours has an advisor. There is tutoring for every core course, and our peer academic coaches are trained and have the ability to work with freshmen all the way up to graduate students."

Students, advisors and staff members who work in academic support services go through training with numerous levels of certification. This peer-to-peer operation seems to work better for students who need help. Ziglar believes that students will relate better to other students during a tutoring or supplemental instruction session.

"We have a great infrastructure of technology and that helps with finding a strong support system

Photo Courtesy of Carrie Ziglar for students," said Ziglar.

The Regents' Momentum Award was given to Ziglar and her staff for their hard work during the COVID-19 period of 2020 and 2021. During that time, face-to-face interaction with students and academic support staff were not occurring. In a span of two weeks, everything involving student support for academic success went virtual with all supplemental sessions online. SI leaders who were working from home had the technology and infrastructure provided to them at all times. Staff were required to attend virtual training on how to create online sessions and how to provide resources to students. Academic coaching and tutoring also went virtual. Ziglar is very appreciative of her staff.

"The board of regents award is a group award, a team reward," said Ziglar. "I have the privilege of working with some amazing individuals who within two weeks turned everything that we did into a virtual format.

"With student success being under one umbrella and us being able to collaborate with open discussion and identify students at risk earlier," continued Ziglar. "We have a phenomenal opportunity to help students invest in themselves, understand their value and the educational process."

LIVING WEST

INGRAM LIBRARY KICKS OFF 2022 WITH BI-WEEKLY BOOK CLUB

TAYLOR BLESSETT
Contributing Writer

The Ingram Library on UWG campus is hosting a book club for students this semester. Visit the library for more information on how to sign up.

Lori Dixon-Leach, Associate Cataloger and Book Club Host, started the book club as an escape for students that still wanted to socialize while at home during the 2020 pandemic. After the book club completes a book, the book club offers those students that participated in the book club recommendations for the following semesters.

The book club’s first meeting was Tuesday, Feb. 8 at 6 p.m. with the guests meeting either online via Google Meet or in person at the Ingram Library. For students to be eligible to receive a free copy provided by the library, students must attend at least one session of the live book club meeting either online or in person. Students are encouraged to

wear masks for in-person meetings. “We encourage students that would like to join to sign up for the book club or students can scan our flyers around the library to join in on the book club,” says Dixon-Leach. “We encourage students to come and pick up their free copies because the copies are first come, first serve. If a student is unable to retrieve a copy, in addition, the books that the book club reads are also in the library available for check out.”

Students can share their different types of perspectives and experiences that may relate to the book. Students are able to feel included and the club is just for students only.

The book club is currently reading “In the After” by Demitria Lunetta which is a thriller. The book club changes to another genre after each read and after at least one session, students enjoy the book even more. During the book club meetings, students can openly share ideas about the book and how they interpreted the book to be. This allows for students to form new connections and learn different interpretations of each read.

“Every book that we read is different from the last,” says Dixon-Leach. “We like to include books

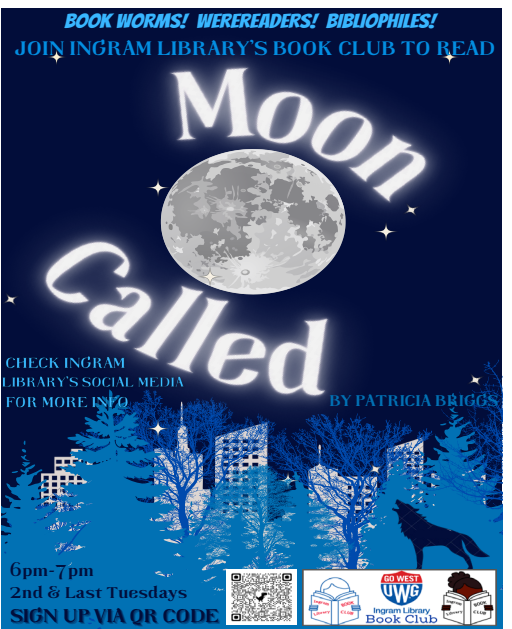


Image Courtesy of UWG Ingram Library with different characters because in the real world, people are different. We believe by doing this, we can represent everyone, and everyone feels included in each book that we read. Through this book club, we discover a lot of new authors from different cultural backgrounds and locations.

“We want as many students as possible to participate,” continues Dixon-Leach. “We offer virtual and in-person sessions so that it fits better into everyone’s participating schedules. If you are at home, a commuter student or at home sick, we would still like for you to participate.”

CAREER SERVICES OFFERS MORE THAN STUDENTS REALIZE

BRITTANY MERSFELDER
News Editor

Career Services has seen an increase in student traffic but many seem to not utilize or under-utilize the opportunities with Career Services. Most students are unaware that UWG’s career services also aid underclassmen, it’s not just for seniors and graduate students.

“We do everything regarding career,” said Associate Director of Career Development, Ian Houston. “The career development process can include a standard resume, cover letter review, helping in assisting and writing a personal statement, mock interview prep, job and internship search strategies and professional branding.”

There are two online programs that are offered that provide students the ability to polish their resume and find a job in their field. The first item on the agenda is called Optimal Resume. This is a service provided by the school where students can organize and reset their resume according to a template. Career services can go over the site for those unsure, help create the resume or review one for the student.

“Optimal Resume is my favorite platform right now,” said Houston. “It makes the resume development process much more streamlined, more efficient and just much easier for students.”

The second program is UWG’s version of LinkedIn. This program is called Handshake and allows the student to create a profile, find jobs or internships and is essentially a one stop shop for students.

“[Handshake] is the safest way for our employers to get in contact with our students,” said Suzy McCorkel, the Associate Director for Employer Relations. McCorkel helps plan the events, employer tabletings and visits around campus. McCorkel has been planning the exceedingly large job fair that is on March 15 from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m.

“That is our big thing that we have come up with and I am so excited for,” said McCorkel. “I have over 20 employers signed up for it. That number will definitely go up. It’s a great opportunity for students to come out in their business casual attire, bring their resume and talk to employers. We have a wide variety of employers that will be there; Enterprise has signed up, we have local law enforcement, CPA firms and then Kia, the car manufacturer from LaGrange, is going to have a booth there as well.”

For students who do not have professional attire, Career services also offers the Wolfie’s Wardrobe, a closet full of various professional outfits that are free to the students.

“One other resource that we have is Wolfie’s Wardrobe,” said



Houston. “It is a free clothing closet. What we like to do is provide a small resource for students who may not have the attire for a job fair or interview. If a student has an upcoming job interview and they don’t have professional attire, they can come in, we’ll set up a time for them to come in. They can explore the closet, find something to wear; shirts, tops, bottoms, accessories, shoes, things like that. If it works out they can keep it.”

Wolfie’s Wardrobe is limited to one outfit per student, regardless of the student’s classification. Donations for the wardrobe are gladly accepted.

Career services offer many aides to the students in terms of helping grow their careers. Their goal is always to see their students succeed beyond the bottom expectation. Check them out today or give Handshake a try. Career Services is in Row Hall on the third floor and accepts walk-in resume reviews.

Career services has many offerings for students when needing help regarding anything career-wise. They want students to succeed beyond the students’ own expectations.

CAREER AND INTERNSHIP FAIR

March 15, 2022
12:00-3:00 PM
Campus Center Ballroom

Image Courtesy of UWG Career Services

ENTERTAINMENT



“PAM AND TOMMY” CAPTIVATE AUDIENCES AGAIN 26 YEARS LATER

ALANNA KING

Contributing Writer

Photo Courtesy of Hulu

The Hulu miniseries “Pam and Tommy” shows audiences just how the reactions to leaked sex tapes has changed since 1996 to current day. The eight-part series, which premiered on February 2, follows the true story of “Baywatch” star Pamela Anderson, Mötley Crüe drummer Tommy Lee and their disgruntled carpenter Rand Gauthier. The show takes the audience on a whirlwind ride through a wild celebrity romance and a sleazy pornography empire.

Audiences are brought back to Los Angeles in 1995 when Rand is doing renovations on Lee’s house. The carpenter is awkward, lonely and most importantly, poor. He is frequently taken advantage of by self-absorbed Tommy, who struts around the construction zone and demands changes to the renovation without compensating the team. Tommy fires Rand without paying him for his work and Rand decides to get revenge.

He sneaks into Tommy’s house and steals a safe, thinking it will contain the money he is owed. To his surprise, he finds a sex tape that Tommy and Pamela recorded on their honeymoon. Rand conceives a plan to cash in on his find while getting revenge on Tommy. Working alongside him is Uncle Miltie, a director of pornographic films in Los Angeles. Rand decides to put the film for sale on

the internet, still being in its early stages by the late 90s. He thinks that with the anonymity of the web that he will never be caught.

While Rand is busy working on his scheme, the show bounces through the late 90s at different stages of Pam and Tommy’s relationship. The couple met on New Year’s Eve of 1994 at a club. They spark instantly and Tommy follows Pam to Cancún where they are married within four days in a haze of drugs, booze and the beach.

1996 takes the couple by storm when, shortly after finding out that Pamela is pregnant, Tommy realizes that his safe is missing. He calls the police, thinking that the contents of the safe will be returned. By this point, Rand has already distributed VHS copies of the sex tape all over the country.

Pamela realizes this when she is on set filming “Baywatch” and overhears the crew watching the tape. She is mortified. She and Tommy hire a private investigator to find whoever has stolen their safe and is distributing the tape. Rand has a few close calls with Tommy’s rocker gang and the private investigator but he escapes each encounter. As of now, they are hot on his tail and Rand is plotting his next move to avoid getting found.

While the whirlwind romance of Pam and Tom-

my is a memory for older viewers, the Gen Z audience gets to see this wild story play out for the first time complete with the 90s nostalgia popular in the media today, shown through the costume design in the show.

British actress Lily James, who plays Pamela, got a prosthetic bust and forehead for the role. She wore wigs for Pamela’s signature bombshell blonde style. Actor Sebastian Stan had prosthetic pierced nipples placed and loose replications of Tommy’s tattoos drawn on him every day of shooting. The transformation process took about four hours for both actors, according to USA Today. While watching the show, it’s hard to believe that the actors are not Pamela and Tommy themselves.

The show also gives us a 90s scandal from a twenty-first century perspective. While older viewers remember Pam and Tommy’s story for themselves, the Gen Z audience is seeing it for the first time themselves with a perspective shaped by #MeToo. The show gives us insight into how Pam felt about the scandal, contrasted with how others around her, like Tommy, were affected.

The audience will get to see more of this whirlwind scandal in the four episodes to come. Fans can watch the finale which will premiere on March 9 on Hulu.

SPORTS



UWG BASKETBALL PLAYER KADEIM JONES REACHES 1,000 CAREER POINTS

LEMUEL MBUINGA
Contributing Writer

Two records met in one season. #10 Kadeim Jones makes history and joins only four other UWG players as a member of the 1,000 point club. Since his transfer from Lourdes University in 2019, Jones has made a huge impact in his college career at UWG.

Michael Zabetakis, teammate of Jones, also scored 1,000 points this season while the Wolves went on a six-game win streak. Jones hit the milestone shortly after. Nonetheless, both were huge contributors to the team’s success during the win streak. Even though Jones added a scoring record to his resume, it doesn’t mean anything to him if the team isn’t successful as well.

“I was never real-

ly a basketball player until my freshman year of high school,” said Jones. “I never got to reach 1,000 points in high school so getting it in college was big for me. It was definitely one of my goals going into college basketball.”

Jones has always been a gifted scorer and Coach Dave Moore knew that he would be a valuable piece for the Wolves. In Jones’s sophomore year at Lourdes University, he averaged 17 points a game. In his first season at UWG as a junior, he averaged 15.8 points a game in which he was seventh in scoring in the Gulf South Conference.

“It never really meant anything for me to keep scoring the ball,” said Jones. “If

Photo Courtesy of UWG Athletics
you’re losing, it really doesn’t matter how much you score. To be able to play well and for that to translate into team wins was the biggest thing for me.

As a graduate student looking to earn his masters in Sport Management, Jones knows what it takes to be successful in college basketball. He understands that the work has to be put in on a consistent basis. He has learned from being at UWG that hard work always pays off.

“The biggest thing that I’ve learned is that you have to put in the work everyday,” said Jones. “You can’t really take any days off if you want to be successful in this sport. You have to work as hard as you possibly can at all times.”