



**A NEW BILL
COULD IMPROVE
BEHAVIORAL
HEALTHCARE IN
GEORGIA**
ALANNA KING
Contributing Writer

Georgians could see eliminate certain options immediate positive changes for consumers. We didn't in their behavioral healthcare want to eliminate those options with the HB 1013 Bill passing in the Georgia State Legislature. The Georgia House bill will attempt to bring behavioral healthcare to rural Georgia where many citizens are underserved. The state will now track where providers are practicing, how they are licensed and when they will retire. "Section two is about the workforce, and it creates a loan program for mental health professionals," says Kirkpatrick. "People who are wanting to go practice in rural Georgia will be eligible to apply for a service cancelable loan, which means it's a year for a year. For every year you stay there for the terminal loan, you don't have to pay it back. What they found about these loans is [providers] tend to stay where they land for three years." While Kirkpatrick is optimistic about this new legislature, it might take time for Georgians to see its results. "We don't have enough mental health providers across the state, and now we can track that," says Kirkpatrick. "It might take a while to get that information depending on when people's license expires but the program can go into effect quickly. The workforce thing is the most important, but probably the hardest because it's difficult to get people to

Photo Courtesy of Associated Press

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go to underserved areas. "The loans are one solution but that's a harder thing to do and money plays into it, too," continued Kirkpatrick. "There are pieces of the budget that have to take place to support what's in the bill and that's still being negotiated between the house and the senate." The bill changed as it went from the house to the Georgia Senate. Citizens at the bill hearing spoke out against the bill and there was much debate over the contents from all sides. "The bill passed on the house side the way that it was but when it came to the senate it hit some resistance," says Kirkpatrick. "There were a lot of people who felt like the bill was too broad and needed to be fixed. We've been working on it for the past three weeks. We passed it on the floor unanimously and it's on its way to the governor's desk now." Kirkpatrick believes that the bill is in the best shape to make positive changes in the state after the deliberation. "It's a difficult needle to thread and I think we did a good job with it," says Kirkpatrick. "I think it's gonna get the ball rolling for people with mental illness in Georgia."

NEWS



THE PHYSICIAN SHORTAGE RAGES ON AS PREMEDICAL STUDENTS VIE FOR COMPETITIVE MEDICAL SCHOOL SLOTS
AMANDA CLAY
Health Correspondent

The physician shortage will continue to escalate into the next decade with an estimated deficit of between 37,800 to 124,000 U.S. physicians by 2034, according to the seventh annual study released last year by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) entitled, “The Complexities of Physician Supply and Demand: Projections from 2019-2034.” The report lists primary care as the specialty at the forefront of this shortage followed by surgical specialties.

Despite this mounting shortage, medical school applications have increased with the 2021-2022 school year seeing an all-time record increase of 17.8%, according to the 2021 AAMC report, “Fall Applicant, Matriculant, and Enrollment Data Tables.” As more students have applied, admissions rates have remained relatively the same. This intense competition for pre-medical students has little to no effect on the physician shortage.

Dr. Eric Heine, Director of Health Services at UWG, says that the issues behind this shortage are multifactorial but points to a lack of preparation in the 80s and 90s as part of the reason, combined with the lack of available spots for students in both medical schools and residency training programs.

“Part of the reason is that in the ‘80s and ‘90s, there was a study that estimated we would have too

many physicians,” said Dr. Heine. “Thus, no new medical schools were built, nor current schools expanded. This went on for almost 30 years so trying to play catch-up now will take at least a decade.

“Also, many of the schools that are opening are not in areas where physicians are needed or are expected to practice, such as in rural areas,” continued Dr. Heine. “So, in one way [medical school] is too competitive, but not because students are not wanted or qualified; there are just not enough spots for them.”

Dr. Heine says that in order for medical schools and residency programs to increase their cohort, the funds must be present to support this increase. This remains a challenge as most residency programs and resident salaries are supported by the U.S. government.

“There would need to be a cooperative and coordinated effort to increase the number of residency program slots to coincide with the number of graduating medical students,” said Dr. Heine. “This is not always feasible, in that residency programs need to meet certain requirements, as well as have staff that are willing to train the residents in adequate numbers, in addition to the right type of patient population, especially for the subspecialties.

“Traditionally, hospitals that have residency programs are supported by the government to make

Photo Courtesy of the Associated Press
this possible,” continued Dr. Heine.

“There is no question that this bottleneck is an issue of concern for current and aspiring medical students.”

Prior to transitioning to College Health medicine, Dr. Heine was a practicing emergency medicine physician for 30 years in Carrollton. He has seen personal examples of the shortage combined with other pressing issues; including a lack of insurance and high costs of medications. These have come together to create a bottleneck of issues presenting as overcrowding in the emergency department.

“I saw patients in the ER with non-emergent problems secondary to difficulties in accessing primary care, although it is not simply the number of providers available,” said Dr. Heine. “The lack of insurance or the high cost of some deductibles even for those who do have policies, is also a major factor in some people not getting in to see a provider.

“There were also many people who presented to the ER after neglecting their health for many years and then experienced an emergent issue, like a stroke, because they had not gone to see a physician about their high blood pressure even though they did have access,” continued Dr. Heine. “The cost of medications also inhibits some people who have seen a provider and received the correct treatment but can’t afford the medication.”

THE

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NEWS



INDIE ROCK BAND, FLIPTURN, IS PERFORMING LIVE AT ATLANTA'S SHAKY KNEES FESTIVAL ON APRIL 29.
BRITTANY MERSFELDER
News Editor

Photo Courtesy of flipturn

High school students across the nation have dreamed about starting a band and going on stage to perform in front of a live audience. Many of these small “Do It Yourself” bands dream of having the opportunity to tour the country. Most wait a lifetime and have dedicated hard work to have this opportunity. Indie rock band, flipturn has risen up to popularity since their beginnings in 2015 and has been touring the United States since Sept. 2021.

The band began in the members’ senior year of high school and freshman year of college. The name flipturn came about because Jarman was a competitive swimmer in high school.

“Me, Tristan [Duncan] and Dillon [Basse] all went to Fernandina High school,” said Madeline Jarman, the bassist of the group. “We were seniors when we first started. We just had an idea to start a band and thought it would be fun. No one else was really doing that type of thing.

“I was a swimmer growing up from age five until 18,” continued Jarman. “The little turn you do at the end of the lane before you start another lap, that’s what a flipturn is. We really stifled [through] so many awful names or names that were already taken. My par-

ents are super involved and they loved that I’m in a band. They were helping us spitball names and suggested ‘flipturn’. It wasn’t taken.”

The band members are lead guitarist Tristian Duncan, bassist Madeline Jarman, Dillon Basse, the voice of flipturn, Mitch Fountain who covers the synthesizer and Devon VonBalsen who is their drummer. flipturn credits their popularity thanks to performing live in a semi-large college town in Florida.

“The Gainesville music scene really took us in and word of mouth was great there,” said Jarman. “That’s still kind of like a hometown show for us. Everyone was our age and it was cool for people in our [college] classes to come out. They would bring five friends”

Since their growth, the band has performed at Okeechobee Music Festival in Okeechobee, Florida. The members are thrilled to be invited to perform at Shaky Knees but this is not their first festival.

“It was cool to [be performing at] a huge festival like that,” said Dillion Basse, the lead vocalist for flipturn. “To be [performing at] festivals that are widely known and outside of our home state really, really is exciting.”

flipturn has been touring since September 2021. They will be performing

new music and fan favorites from over the years. Over the course of their tour, it has brought upon the dreaded “tour brain”, where one is mentally exhausted from traveling and performing every other night. flipturn has a special way to keep “tour brain” from taking hold of each member. This special tactic is known as the rubber chicken named Jalapeño.

“He is definitely still a thing,” said Jarman. “[Jalapeño] is like our pet. He’s our comic relief when times are dull in the van and it’s dark or driving on the highway and there’s nothing. He’s great.”

This rubber chicken is used as their way to break the silence or be the comedic relief in a stressful situation while touring around the country. The band has brought Jalapeño on stage with them and will bring him on stage for Shaky Knees.

“Touring has been amazing,” said Basse. “We get to see the entire country which has been insane, places we would have never really gone. This is the biggest tour we have ever been on. Almost every single show on this tour has been sold out. It’s been surreal.”

flipturn will be performing at Shaky Knees April 29 at 1:15 p.m. on the Piedmont stage as well as a late night show at the Masquerade in Purgatory at 11 p.m.

LIVING WEST



**THE STAR-CROSSED
INTERDISCIPLINARY
SCIENCE OF ART
AND ASTRONOMY**
JANNETTE EMMERICK
Feature Editor

Subjects collide in an evening lecture that paint the similarities between art and science. On Mar. 29, UWG’s Astronomy professor Dr. Nick Sterling and Art Professor Casey McGuire gave a joint, interwoven lecture titled “Art Meets Astronomy: Communicating Scientific Discoveries” at the Newnan Carnegie Library for the “Other Night School” lecture series.

“We basically got paired because of our similarities in research, even though they’re separate disciplines,” says Casey McGuire.

During the Spring 2022 semester, UWG has hosted the lecture series “The Other Night School”. For one of the ideas, “The Other Night School” decided to pair very different subject teachers to formulate an interdisciplinary lecture.

“[Before Monday] we had only met on Zoom,” says Dr. Nick Sterling. “We’re on opposite sides of the campus. Yet, [the lecture] highlights the interconnections in ways that are not very obvious to the general public.”

Together they explored how their subjects intertwined and found that they had more in common than initially imagined. Over the centuries, astronomers and observers of the night sky have tried their best to recreate and capture what they saw through different forms of art.

“It even opened my eyes and helped me to look at it from a different angle about how we represent some of these images,” says Sterling. “Something that I take for

granted as an astronomer. Like, these beautiful Hubble images are just false colors. Art and astronomy are deeply intertwined.”

A vast majority of space photography used in the science communities involve enhanced color, false color, miniature models or artist illustrations.

“The one thing for me about the history of astronomical photography is that we have been provided false color or artist interpretations of information since the mid 1800s,” says McGuire. “This is not a foreign concept when talking about false information or images. Truth in lies in imagery.”

Sir John Herschel was an English mathematician, astronomer, chemist, inventor and experimental photographer, or in fewer words, a polymath, meaning “having learned much” in Greek. Around the 1800s, Herschel is attributed as the artist that captured a highly detailed Calotype photo of a plaster model, and also falsely attributed to the Great Moon Hoax.

Also from the same time, James Nasmyth, polymath and artist, used plaster to create a moon model that he then photographed to capture a better image of what he saw through the telescope. Nasmyth is also attributed as depicting mountains on the moon, but he didn’t know at the time that there were none.

McGuire worked with Mark Schoon, another UWG professor, to join the observational astronomer artists and replicate space photography and concepts

Photo: Jannette Emmerick, *The West Georgian* with practical effects. McGuire assures that the photos captured are not photo-shopped or simulated but are created with what they had available in the art studio.

False color is another technique heavily utilized in many space photos circulating today. False color is the application of colors onto what would be invisible light to the human eye, the abundance of colors used and vibrancy is used to emphasize concepts beyond the visible light spectrum.

“You use false color to observe different properties,” says Dr. Sterling. “For example, one thing that’s really common in galactic astronomy is to overlay images. A physical light image over an x-ray image.

“Then you’re seeing two very different things, the very hot x-ray emitting gas that’s associated with a massive black hole that you don’t see just by looking at the stars,” continued Dr. Sterling. It’s used to create a sense of wonder, but also to better understand the results.

The use of artist interpretations is a key element to theorizing complex mysteries such as the water maser, which is the emission of a galactic nucleus which is largely concealed behind clouds of space dust. Even today, with the advancement of telescopes and how to differentiate the spectrum of light, allows astronomers to find more and more details every day.

“Modern science is using false color to illustrate and communicate,” says McGuire. “First year art classes are all about still life: observation.”

**OPINION: THE OSCARS’
ROCKY PAST OF
RACIAL INEQUALITY
& SEXISM**
ALEX AMOS
Contributing Writer

The Academy Awards are known for having the most prestigious awards for those who focus their profession in motion picture arts and sciences. The history of the Oscars aside from distributing awards annually continues to support racial inequality and follows sexist practices.

Nominees of color have won significantly fewer awards and have been given maltreatment for years within the Academy Award shows. Back in 1939, Hattie McDaniel was the first black woman to win an Oscar. She was forced to sit at the back of the show, segregated from the white attendees. During the 2015 and 2016 award season, no people of color were among the selections out of all 20 nominees for either year. In 2015 Activist April Reign began the famous hashtag “#OscarsSoWhite” after someone had asked to touch her hair because they were not used to the texture. Other actors like Rami Malik, the actor from the movie “Bohemian Rhapsody”, was the first actor of Arabic heritage to win the best actor

category in the 90 years of awards.

The Oscars are also notorious for participating in or encouraging sexist values during the award show. In 2022, women were yet again the butt of a questionable joke with a skit that did not go quite as planned. Comedian Wanda Sykes was the first to appear on stage dressed as Venus and Serena Williams’ father, Richard. The joke ended up being centered around the amount of hair that she had to remove from her legs in reference to the modern standards of body hair on women. Another comedian, Amy Schumer, took the stage for the second part of the bit. Her joke consisted of telling people that she needed to lose her baby weight.

With these jokes in mind, it is clear to see a pattern of making fun of women who do not live up to specific beauty standards according to society’s gaze. Women are also less accredited in the Oscars with less females winning awards. Throughout the entire history of the Academy Awards, only seven women have been nominated for best director with only three nominees winning an Oscar according to an NBC news article. According to a Statista article, only 12.5% of nominations for short subject documentaries consisted of women and only 20% of women

were nominated for cinematography.

In addition to making women the butt of jokes, women also receive less representation in the Academy Awards. This year, only approximately 28.3% of the Oscar wins went towards women, lower than last year’s percentage of 32% according to The Wrap News Inc.

Though the Academy Awards may have several flaws, all hope is not lost. Many are bringing awareness to the mistreatment towards the minorities in the industry. In 2021, nine out of 20 actors who were nominated were of different ethnicities, creating one of the most diverse Oscars in history. Beyond his rocky beginning in this year’s 2022 Oscars, Will Smith still accomplished a significant feat by winning the award for best actor, something that only five black men have won.

There is still room for major improvement within the industry. There is a possibility that the Oscars can finally increase its inclusivity and encourage better values given the amount of celebrities and audiences that want to see change. April Reign’s hashtag was only the beginning of the movement to make the Oscars more inclusive for other races. Through bringing awareness of the issues surrounding the Academy Awards including racial inequality and sexist practices.

SPORTS

UWG FALL 2022 FOOTBALL PREVIEW

LEMUEL MBUINGA
Contributing Writer



The 2022 fall season for UWG football is just five months away. The Wolves are still looking ahead toward the future despite the Blue vs. White scrimmage game cancellation in March. Since the end of spring practice, the training has been non-stop.

The Wolves have been focusing on weight room training and on-field practices early in the off-season. The coaching staff expects the team to be well prepared before fall camp so when the season starts, everyone is on the same page.

In 2021, the Wolves finished with a 9-3 record. They reached the NCAA Division II Playoffs but fell short to Valdosta State in the second round in a 66-35 loss.

“I think we have a good coaching

staff that will help push us to go pretty far this upcoming season,” said Anthony Polite, defensive back for the Wolves.

“The practices we’ve had have been productive for sure, especially in the weight room,” continued Polite. “Our new strength coaches have been adamant about getting us stronger and faster. I can tell the work has been paying off because I can see our guys physically moving better around the field.”

Defensive Lineman Marzavion Dix returns this season as a senior. He was a second team All-GSC selection last season, finishing with 20 tackles. Another key returning player for the Wolves is Deontae Overstreet, who was a first team All-GSC selection. He led the

team with 59 tackles in the 2021 season.

UWG plays Valdosta State at home this season on October 22. This will be a highlighted game as the Wolves look to capitalize on their home field after losing to them in the 2021 playoffs.

“As a team, we’re just focused on our training right now so we’re ready to roll when fall camp comes around,” said Polite.

The matchup against West Florida next season will also be an anticipated matchup. West Florida finished second in the GSC rankings in the 2021 season, right above UWG.

UWG Football is set to kick off their 2022 fall season on September 3 vs. Carson-Newman at RA-LIN Field.

Photo Courtesy of UWG Athletics



MEN'S GOLF TEAM PREP FOR FINAL SPRING TOURNAMENTS

TREVOR GONZALES
Contributing Writer

The University of West Georgia Men’s golf team heads into their final regular-season tournament on April 4 and 5 at The Argonaut Invitational in Pensacola, Florida. The Wolves are currently ranked 22nd in the nation in the GCAA Coaches Poll and 23rd in the GolfStat Rankings.

They entered this tournament after finishing second at the Tusculum Invitational in Chuckey, Tennessee with Austin Fulton winning the individual round with a two-stroke win. Fulton has earned three individual titles and a runner-up finish in his four starts this season. The Mississippi State University transfer and Douglas County High School graduate currently sits second in the nation in the GolfStat NCAA DII top ten men’s rankings

In the three tournaments so far this spring, UWG has gradually improved each time out. The Wolves began the semester with a 12th place finish at the Hurricane Invitational in Albany, Georgia on March 1. Seniors Blake Kollin and Jack Brennan lead the way for the Wolves finishing 13th and 37th respectively.

The second tournament would result in a 6th place effort from UWG with only four players competing due to a medical

withdrawal. Brennan would finish 16th overall with Kollin notching a 29th place effort. This was followed up by Fulton’s overall victory and the team’s second-place finish at Tusculum.

“We have played well so far this season, even without Austin but we knew once he came back from injury, we knew we would improve a lot,” said senior Jack Brennan, “We are playing better and we are stronger together as a team.”

Brennan walked onto the team in 2019. He then began to play golf with his family and fell in love with the game. He has been involved with many community service activities with the local schools in Carrollton.

“It is crazy how we used to act like kids and how we used to think. Now, I am all grown up and I am interacting with them. I am grateful for it since I’m from nearby Douglasville,” said Brennan. “It is very rewarding to give back to the kids. The kids are precious and their perspectives are awesome.”

“I would say I am content with the scores I’ve put up but I am happy with how I have been consistent with my scores even when I was not hitting my best shots,” Kollin stated, “I have been satisfied with my putting and short game but need to improve on driving.

There are always things to improve on and that is why I love golf.”

“The expectations I have for myself for the rest of the season is to keep improving in all facets of my game,” continued Kollin, “This is more of a big-picture goal for me. I have always been a good short game player while struggling with driving and iron shots so I want to become a better driver and iron player.”

Kollin has experienced a lot during his UWG career.

“I have been forced to immediately improve my time management between classes, golf, studying, etc. Once I mastered my time management skills, things got easy for me.” Kollin says. “Being a college student is an experience within itself. I like being thrown into the wolves because I tend to learn and adapt quickly.

“I saw it [at UWG] as a great opportunity to play the sport I love while getting a great education at the same time,” continued Kollin. “I have been blessed to meet some amazing people on the way as well.”

The Wolves have high expectations as they enter the final swing of their season. After the Argonaut Invitational, UWG will participate in the Gulf South Conference Championships on April 14 and 15.

Photo Courtesy of UWG Athletics

SPORTS



SAINT PETERS NCAA TOURNAMENT RUN IS WHY WE LOVE COLLEGE BASKETBALL
TREVOR GONZALES
Contributing Writer

Photo Courtesy of Associated Press

In March, college basketball rules the sports world as the regular season ends. NCAA Conference tournaments are completed and 68 collegiate programs get to compete under the national spotlight with a shot to win a national championship. It's win or go home. Survive and advance.

In 2020, the NCAA tournaments were canceled because of COVID-19 before returning in 2021 with the tournament being held solely in the state of Indiana with limited fan attendance.

The opening round had thrilling action, close games and a few major upsets; one being a Cinderella run all the way to the Elite Eight.

Saint Peter's University is a private university in the middle of Jersey City, New Jersey with an enrollment of roughly 2,300 students.

Their head basketball coach was Shaheen Holloway, a former McDonald's All-American in 1995 with the late Kobe Bryant. Holloway went on to play his collegiate career at Seton Hall University. He returned as an assistant coach to the men's basketball program in 2010 holding that title until 2018 when he took the job at Saint Peter's as head coach.

They won the Metro

Atlantic Athletic Conference tournament to earn a berth into the tournament. They were given a 15 seed in the South region matched up against blue blood powerhouse, Kentucky.

The Peacocks entered the game as 18 point underdogs but walked away with a monumental 85-79 win in overtime to shock the Wildcats and coach John Calipari. The historic upset roared through national headlines in the sports world as a small school from Jersey City knocked off one of the most prolific college basketball programs ever.

The momentum was just beginning as Saint Peter's would win their round of 32 matchup over Murray State 70-60 with a sweet sixteen matchup against 3 seed Purdue. Purdue has future NBA lottery pick, Jaden Ivey, on their team as well as 7'4" center Zach Edey. This was no problem for Saint Peter's as they would knock off the Boilermakers in a 67-64 thriller. Saint Peter's had become the first-ever 15 seed to reach the Elite Eight.

The Cinderella run would end in the Elite Eight as North Carolina would steamroll the Peacocks en route to a 20 point win, 69-49.

By this time, everyone was talking about this team and their coach.

Coach Holloway is a player's coach with a player's mindset going back to his former days. His crisp offensive sets confused opposing defenses as well as the defensive schemes they used against their opponents.

In the last four minutes of each of their three wins, Saint Peter's would run a full-court man-to-man soft press to prevent the offense from quickly getting into their sets. Once the point guard would cross half court, they would go into a 3-2 match-up zone which confused Kentucky, Murray State and Purdue. They were bewildered by the defensive adjustments and they could not score in the game when it mattered most.

Shaheen Holloway was then hired as the new head coach of Seton Hall, his alma mater. At the introductory press conference, Holloway had his Saint Peter's team in attendance stating, "I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for these 15 men."

This is what college basketball is about and has always been about. Small schools enter the big dance against powerhouse schools with funding and resources that outmatch the smaller schools. Everyone loves an underdog, and this year, that underdog that fans fell in love with Saint Peter's.