



TEST SCORES WAIVED FOR CERTAIN GEORGIA COLLEGE STUDENTS

DOUGLAS SALTER
Contributing Writer

The University System of Georgia (USG) is waiving SAT and ACT scores for high school students who have a GPA of 3.2 or applying to Georgia State Colleges in 2023-2024 school year.

Waiving test scores will impact current high school seniors applying to colleges across the state positively over the next academic year. It will help students who are poor test takers, students who cannot afford the test and generally give students one less task to worry about when it comes to applying to college.

“The new test-optional decision was made in light of policy changes from the University System of Georgia,” said Emily Wurst, Associate Director of Admissions at The University of West Georgia. “Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, access to standardized testing and test prep resources has become a larger barrier for students to complete enrollment applications. By waiving the test scores for this population, we are making it that much easier for these high-achieving students to apply to UWG and become Wolves!”

To be approved for test-optional admission, an incoming college student must submit their application and high school transcript. The Office of Undergraduate Admissions will evaluate

the student’s transcript to determine their academic GPA. If their GPA is above 3.2 and the student meets all other requirements, the student may be admitted and will not need to submit test scores. If their GPA is below 3.2, then the student will need to send scores from either the SAT or ACT.

“There are no additional steps or process changes for the student,” said Wurst. “These students will just need to submit the undergraduate admissions application and submit their high school transcript. The Office of Undergraduate Admissions will then evaluate the student’s transcript to determine their academic GPA and test-optional eligibility.”

The 3.2 GPA was ultimately settled on due to an average of test scores the University System of Georgia collected from across the state of Georgia officials. Currently the optional test scores are only for students enrolling for the 2023-2024 school year. An extension can be made by the representatives from the USG if the process deems to be a success.

“By waiving the SAT/ACT test score requirement, UWG is creating pathways to education for bright students who show potential for success at our university,” said Wurst. “We believe that removing this barrier will allow more students to enroll and earn a UWG education. This will allow the university not only to admit a larger number of students; it will also allow us to benefit from the talents, skills, and research that these students will contribute to their academic fields at UWG.”

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CAT CLUBBING ON CAMPUS

JANNETTE EMMERICK
Feature Editor

At the end of the Spring semester, UWG students Julianne Arnold and Justin Jones spearheaded the formation of Cat Club. Since its formation in May, Cat Club has taken off as it unites UWG students who simply want to appreciate their own pets and help felines in shelters.

“Cats are important to me, because I have one,” said Arnold. “Obviously, it’s important to other people in Carrollton because there is a cat cafe, so we thought it’d be a good club to have.”

Currently, the club has over 50 members and over thrice the number of followers on Instagram @uwgcatclub. Every week, club members vote on a “Cat of the Week” from amongst the membership’s pets.

“We are thinking of opening up [‘Cat of the Week’ voting] to everybody [in the UWG community], but right now it’s just people in the club,” said Arnold.

While the club is focused on cats, they hold no discrimination or gatekeeping for their club reach.

“We did think about doing

a pet club just in general, instead of just cats, but I know it’s more specific,” said Arnold. “We might try to open it out a bit more in the future to more pets as well.”

UWG’s Cat Club recently wrapped up a “Protect the Paws” event on Oct. 11-13, where the club partnered with the Self Sufficient Wolves Club to fundraise for the World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

“We’re just trying to raise money— Not just for cats— It’s for different animals,” said Arnold. “Raising money and selling packaged snacks, and from that money, we donate it.”

Self Sufficient Wolves is also initiated by Justin Jones, Cat Club’s vice president and is a club that teaches students how to live on their own, in essence, how to be self-sufficient.

Overall, the purpose of Cat Club extends to more than appreciating and posting cat pictures online. Cat Club also helps Carrollton’s animal communities including the Fur Babies Cat Cafe, Humane Society and other organizations.

“We are trying to partner with [Fur Babies Cat Cafe] and fundraise money for them and anything they may need,” said Arnold. “So we just want to raise money and fundraise for cats, pretty much.”

One of Cat Club’s first club activities involved making cat toys to donate to the cafe.

“We’re also thinking of growing our own catnip and partnering with [the cafe] to sell and fundraise money there,” said Arnold.

Arnold and Jones hope to grow the club even more to unite UWG cat owners and animal lovers in general. Still, cats will most likely remain the poster animal of the group.

“A lot of people in our club have cats but not everybody. They either like cats or want to get a cat,” said Arnold. “We have a lot of people who foster cats. One of the girls just fostered some that went to Furbabies.”

Cat Club does everything they can to dote on not just their own cats and internet cats but also the many pets in the Carrollton community still waiting for homes.



Image Courtesy of UWG Cat Club

THE WINGS OVER NORTH GEORGIA AIRSHOW IS BACK AND BETTER THAN EVER

BRIANNA WELCH

Rome's annual air show, The Wings Over North Georgia AirShow returns to Richard Russell Regional Airport and will have spectacular, never before seen performances. The airshow will be on Oct. 15 and 16, and the parking gates open at 9 a.m.

“This year alone, we got the U.S. Air Force A-10 demo team,” said Cowman. “We got the QYON team that’s coming, which is a civilian jet team. Our big thing that we’re doing this year is introducing the airshow racing series.”

"We have such a wide variety of aircraft at our shows," said Cowman. "We pretty much reach every-



Photo Courtesy of Wings Over North Georgia

They have plenty of ticketing options to choose from , including the patio club, box seating, general admission , and many others. There are no discounts; however, the ticket prices are cheaper than in previous years.

“The other interesting thing that we do here we haven’t done the last few years due to COVID-19 was

In addition to the airshow, the Parade of Veterans Military Tribute will make a comeback. This parade is a crowd favorite that honors veterans and active duty soldiers in the U.S. Armed Forces. The parade will start around 3 p.m. on both days. Static displays, food and retail vendors, exhibitors, opening ceremonies and aerial performances will also be present. The airshow will start right after the opening performances.

"The air racing part of what we're doing is brand new stuff for the airshow industry, so we're pretty excited to present that for the first time ever here," said Cowman.

GETTING FRESHMEN MORE INVOLVED AT UWG

A new chapter for incoming freshman college students can be a challenge. There are new experiences ahead while beginning life as a young adult. To combat this, UWG offers over 150 clubs and organizations on campus to make the transition easier.

“UWG has a ton of great organizations and I wouldn’t want to single out any particular one as being better or worse,” said UWG Counselor, LJ Davis. “The key is to look for an organization that you are interested in and where you think you might want to connect with others who have that interest.”

The housing department alone holds several events throughout the school year to get underclassmen out of their rooms and engage with

Students with social anxiety often only go to class and the dining halls. Students struggle to meet others and make friends, leading them to just spend their time in their dorm.

“For any particular student it might be an athletic organization, or an organization based around a hobby, there are also plenty of cultural or religious organizations as well as service organizations and Greek Life,” said Davis. “Any organization that a student is interested in is a good place to start.”

Organizations are not for everyone; students may not want to be dedicated to the costs and time associated with one. Even in that case, a great place to find like-minded individuals would be the Campus Center.

The Campus Center is home to two of UWG's biggest attractions, the gym and the game room. Students are free to use ei-

“Almost anywhere on campus can be a great place to meet people,” said Davis.

“I had a student just recently tell me about hanging out on campus and engaging with the people around them and they came away with two new contacts that might develop into friendships.”

Many students' confidence and social connectivity suffered after the pandemic. These organizations and events are meant to bring everyone together to combat the unforeseen circumstances COVID-19 left us with.

“It is scary and challenging but finding ways and times to introduce yourself to people, give them genuine compliments, and ask them about themselves is a great way to get started,” said Davis. “I always tell people the vast majority of people have the exact same favorite topic: themselves.”

THE
WEST GEORGIAN EST. 1934

John Sewell, Ph.D.
Advisor

LIVING WEST

JADE TRAVELS FROM JAMAICA TO DEBATE WITH UWG

ALEX AMOS
Contributing Writer

UWG’s Debate team hosted a public debate on Sept. 22 in the Campus Ballroom Center with the Jamaican Association for Debating and Empowerment (JADE). Dr. Michael Hester, the Director of UWG Debate and Chair of JADE’s Board of Directors, invited three students and two leadership members from JADE to participate in a debate on ship tourism. Hester has already fostered a five-year relationship with JADE and traveled to Jamaica to meet JADE’s leadership and make the event happen. “Back in 2017, I reached out to [JADE] anonymously and sent an email to them mentioning that I would love to travel to Jamaica and that I do debate and noticed that they do debate as well,” said Hester. “I eventually got in touch with a man named Germaine Barrett, the Executive Director and Co-founder of JADE.” Before the debate, the university welcomed the JADE students and gave them a tour of the campus. The JADE students also prepared several presentations for classes and engaged with many students from different organizations, such as The Bandana Project and The Latino Cultural Society. “In addition to the debate



Photo: Alex Amos, *The West Georgian*

event Thursday night, the students spoke to multiple classes,” said Hester. “This means that in addition to the UWG students that were attending the debate, they spoke to an additional 100 students in various classes on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. “The JADE students felt very welcomed and included, so southern hospitality was on full display,” continued Hester. Once the JADE students made their way to the stage of the Campus Ballroom Center for the debate, over 150 UWG students showed up to spectate. UWG students were given a chance to observe and ask several questions about the debate topic after the last rebuttal. “I was very pleased with the UWG audience,” said Hester. “It was a large audience and they were very engaged. “The debate format allowed for a question and answer period in which the audience got to ask questions and make comments and that session was filled

with multiple students that engaged in dialogue with the debaters,” Hester continued. “There were several students who stayed after the debate to engage the participants in a light discussion.” Amid the success of the JADE debate, Hester hopes to plan hosting another debate event in the Spring. “There is currently another event in the early planning stages with another college in Pennsylvania, West Mester college and that discussion is just beginning,” said Hester. “Folks on campus can look forward to another paid public debate event in April.” The event ultimately brought students from two different countries together to compete and debate while bringing the campus closer together in the process. “To be able to bring Jamaica here and have Jamaicans interact with our students is an intercultural benefit that everyone’s university experience should have,” said Hester.

NORTHERN CHINA EATERY REVIEW

CHRISTIAN JAMES-LATTORE
Contributing Writer

The city of Doraville, Ga holds a delectable, family-friendly restaurant that has been open for ten years. Northern China Eatery has a relaxing, traditional atmosphere where you can enjoy authentic, diversely seasoned and affordable Chinese food. Most modern restaurants tend to focus more on technology, creating an atmosphere for their customers. They typically have TVs all over the restaurant or even electronic tablets with mini-games. However, Northern China Eatery has a classic dining experience that many customers may

find inviting. Customers engage in conversation with one another and are barely on their phones. The menu consists of some staple foods such as dumplings, fried rice and handmade noodles. Their meals have a variety of options including various meats and veggie dishes to select from. The restaurant isn’t large in scale but the owners make much out of the space they have. I ordered three different dishes from their dinner menu. To start, I selected a popular classic wonton soup. The dish was served to me steaming hot within the first ten minutes of ordering. The soup is a seasoned chicken broth-based dish with soft wontons marinating with seaweed, egg and scallions. In addition to the soup, I decided to pair it with their soft yet flavorful shumai. This is a traditional steamed dumpling that is filled with a multitude of ingredients such as shrimp, pork, black mushrooms and egg wrapped up in a doughy oval shape. With the various layers of flavors, none of them clash with each other; together they blend cohesively to create one fresh taste. When paired with the wonton soup, the dish left me satisfied and relaxed.

The third and final meal I ordered was the stir-fried spicy beef with celery and cabbage. The beef was seasoned with sesame seeds, guajillo pepper and salt. The beef was fried to perfection and wasn’t dry or chewy. The dish was advertised as being spicy but everyone’s heat tolerance is not identical. For me, the spiciness of the beef built up over time which can be comparable to spicy salsa. The heat came into full effect towards the end of the dish. The cabbage and celery helped to tone the dish down so that the peppers don’t overpower the entire dish. I’m not big of spicy foods but for how tender the beef was, the heat was worth it. Overall, the food was phenomenal. The North China Eatery may not be a heavily advertised chain restaurant but for a small-scale place, they offer a plethora of options and flavors. What makes this restaurant stand out the most is its readiness to serve fresh food. Every dish came out within ten minutes and was freshly prepared. When it comes to pricing, it would cost \$10 to \$22 a person. Northern China Eatery is a place worth eating at if you’re looking for traditional Chinese cuisine.



Image Courtesy of Northern China Eatery

ENTERTAINMENT

REVIEW: A DAY TO REMEMBER KNOCKS BIRMINGHAM OUT OF THE ARENA

BRITTANY MERSFELDER

Editor-in-Chief

Those who know A Day To Remember know that they always put on a rockin' show, no matter where they perform at. This show was no exception. On Oct. 2, A Day To Remember came to Birmingham, Ala. to perform their tour "Just Some Shows." This was a last minute, unplanned trip that was absolutely worth it.

We arrived a tad late and caught the tail end of the second band performing. This band was Magnolia Park. They are a small but widely known band that blew up on social media, specifically TikTok. Their song "10 for 10" is their largest hit. I enjoyed catching their performance before The Used came on stage. Magnolia Park put on a great show for their fans as they packed the arena.

The Used was up next. If The Used isn't

a band you've heard of, it's okay; I didn't know them either. However, they put on a very interactive show. Their music was great. They did show care and compassion towards their fans. I enjoyed their performance as well as the next guy, but I do not believe I will see them again.

The last performers came to the stage; A Day To Remember was coming. As usual, their show was amazing. They played many fan-favorite songs such as "Have Faith In Me," "All I Want" and "Lauderdale." The crowd was cheering, dancing, singing along, and moshing. It was an amazing show. We also were able to hear the new song, "Miracle" live. This song was dropped over the summer and it kicks a**.

Before the performance was over, there were only a couple of songs left on their setlist. As they got to begin one of their oldies, a crowd surfer was dropped onto the metal fencing. He was knocked out and

rendered unconscious for several minutes. McKinnon stopped the band and called out for EMTs. The entire fanbase was silent as EMTs headed to the front. Cheers were heard when he opened his eyes. The injured fan was able to walk out of the arena safely, being escorted by EMTs. Once he was pulled out, ADTR resumed the show.

One comment I did have about the performance was it seemed the lead singer, Jeremy McKinnon, appeared to have a voice strain. His voice sounded painful; not the normal ADTR sound but as if he strained it while on tour. It sounded like it was time for a voice break for him because he was straining at certain parts of songs.

Overall, the show was phenomenal as usual. I will never miss another ADTR concert even if that means finding tickets last minute. I am looking forward to seeing them on Dec. 2 in Atlanta for their acoustic tour. Rock on!



Photo Courtesy of James Heartly

ENTERTAINMENT

REVIEW:
MONSTER: THE
JEFFREY DAHMER STORY
PREMIERES ON NETFLIX

SAMIRA BARNETT
Contributing Writer

The chilling story of a murderer and his victims. Director Ryan Murphy released his new true crime series, *Monster: The Jeffrey Dahmer Story*. The show dropped on Netflix and has taken the true crime industry by storm.

This 10-episode series re-tells the gruesome murders of 17 young men from 1978 to 1991. Dahmer was born in Akron, Ohio but committed the majority of his crimes in Milwaukee, Wis. This series takes the audience on a journey through his life, beginning with his childhood and ending with his final victim.

Evan Peters, a well-known actor in other horror and thriller films, played Jeffrey Dahmer in this series. Despite the fact that there are numerous versions of the story, this series seems to grasp each detail and touch the audience in a unique way.

Instead of focusing solely on Jeffrey Dahmer, this series also pays tribute to the victims and families of those who were affected. It shows the experience of those around him whether that be employees in a bar or the neighbors in the building.

Murphy dedicated episode eight to Tony Anthony Hughes (Rodney Burford), one of the victims who had relations with Dahmer before



Image courtesy of Netflix

passing away. The audience is able to see who Hughes was as a person while he was still alive. It demonstrated the significance of his life rather than focusing on his death.

Glenda Cleveland (Niecey Nash), Dahmer’s neighbor, was a huge help in leading the police to Dahmer. Her experience on the other side of her door was depicted in the show. As Dahmer’s next-door neighbor, she would hear the screams and smell the flesh.

Cleveland played a significant role in Dahmer’s capture. She called the police several times because she suspected something was wrong next door. It also highlights the police’s failure to recognize what was occurring at the time, allowing Dahmer to continue his murders for 13 years.

There are numerous versions of this story available on several streaming websites. However, this particular series did an outstanding job of telling this event in detail from various perspectives. This

adds to the show’s authenticity.

The fact that it was a TV series based on a true story is what drew viewers in. Unlike other films, this series presents the story step by step rather than a single rushed movie. This gave the audience time to learn and grow into the show.

This story was eye-opening. Although it is infamous in America, recounting it through Peters’ portrayal of Dahmer is quite disturbing. There were a few minor inaccuracies in the show but it did not affect the honesty from the story overall.

The show concluded with Dahmer serving 15 life sentences for the 15 counts of murder he was found guilty of. He died in prison two years after he was imprisoned.

For those who haven’t heard the story, this series provides viewers with an abundance of vital information about one of America’s most shocking murders. Many will learn about this horrific event and should watch at their own discretion.

UWG SOFTBALL
GETS A NEW
COACHING STAFF

EMMA WORLEY
News Editor

UWG welcomes Kristy Burton and her staff from Webber International University to coach the softball team. It was officially announced in the spring semester that Burton would head over the university’s softball team after having a mid-season coaching removal during the 2021-2022 season.

Burton and her staff of two all come from Webber and have a long history of all working together at many different levels and more many years. Right before Burton was hired she took her team at Webber to the NAIA world series.

Burton loved her girls and team but

it was time for a new opportunity. Together, they moved to Carrollton, GA to take the UWG softball team to the next level.

“It’s been a pretty big adjustment just learning all the new procedures, getting to know a new team, but everyone is so helpful that it’s made it easy to want to be here,” says Burton.

Burton had two months with her new team before their first fall competition on Oct. 9 at Mercer University. The Wolves came up short 6-5 in a 10 innings scrimmage. She is determined to take this team to the farthest point and she is anxious to start the season in Feb. 2023.

“I am excited to see us compete together as a team and become the first class program this team works everyday to become,” says Burton. “We are excited to see how many heads we can turn by winning not just on the field but in the classroom, and in our community.”

The top priority for this 2022 team is to make a new name for them-

selves. They are starting from the ground up to become the best of the best and compete in the most challenging Division II conference for softball.

Each day this team works alongside Burton and her staff. They have a short off season in the fall to prepare for the beginning competitions.

“We as a team will set goals each season but right now we just want to be competitive in the classroom, community, and in competition,” Burton says. “Every year of course we want to win but this season we have a few small goals: compete in the post season and win a conference championship, have a team GPA goal of 3.7, and have the most community service hours on campus.”

The team will have their first official game on Feb. 3, 2023 in Gulf Shores, Ala. followed by a busy season of about 60 games. Burton and her staff have all the confidence that it will be the best season yet.

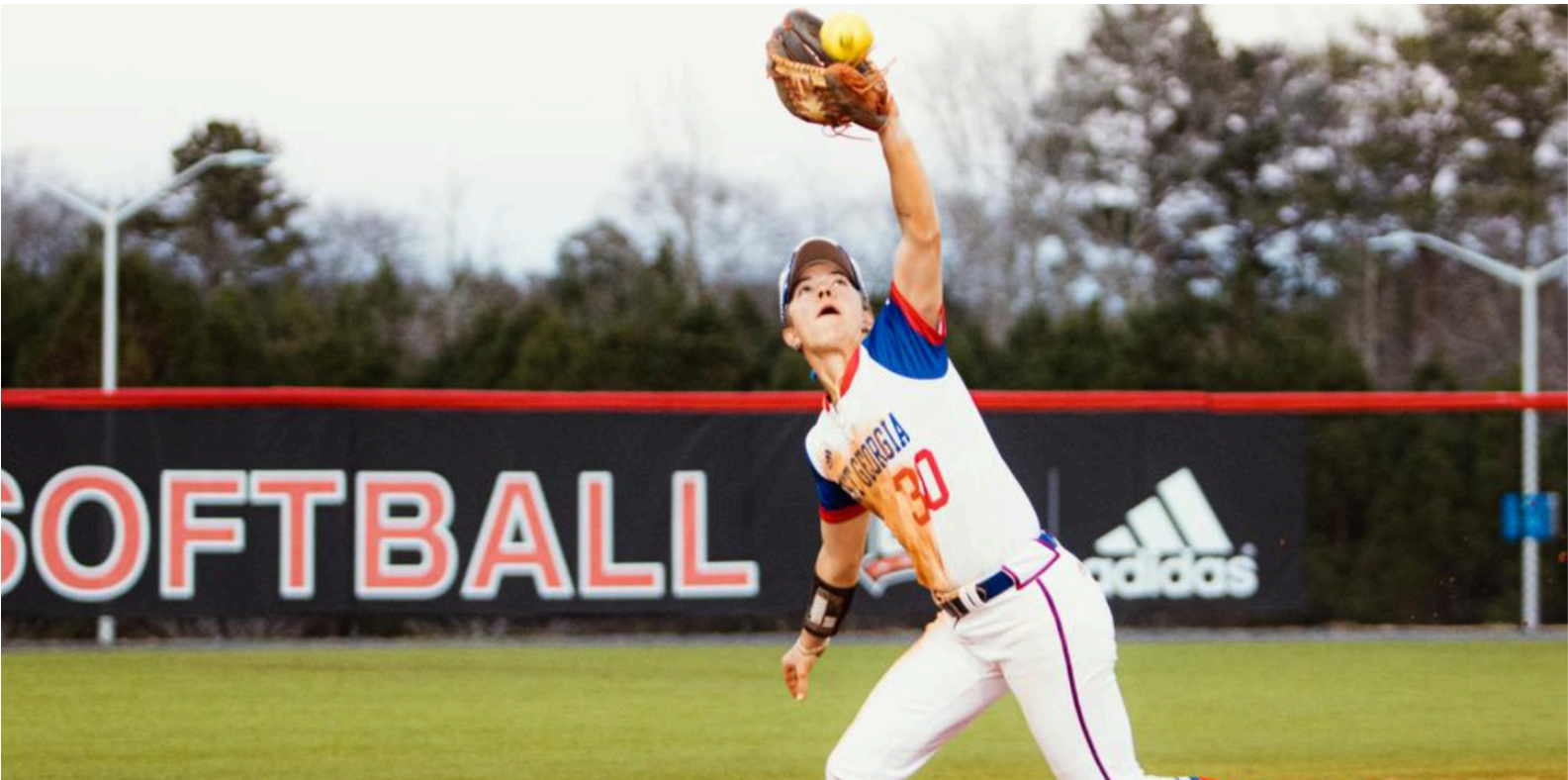


Photo Courtesy of UWG Softball Team