



PUBLIC SERVICE CLUB ENCOURAGES UWG AND COMMUNITY TO VOTE!

ALANNA KING

News Editor

As midterm elections approach in Georgia, UWG's Public Service Club is making sure all students on campus are registered and ready to vote.

This election has the potential to change Georgia's political landscape, with positions for governor and the entire state legislature open for election. This, coupled with intense polarization over the past years, many candidates and organizations have been pushing the public to register to vote, including UWG's Public Service Club.

"Georgia is in a pretty interesting period of history," said Justin Jones, president of the Public Service Club. "We are considered by many to be a purple state, and we believe this is the best opportunity for everyone to register to vote and get their voices heard."

A purple state refers to the diversity between Republican and Democratic leaders within the state's government, a notion that became associated with Georgia when the state went blue for Biden in 2020 and elected two democrats to the state senate to join the majority republican representatives. Now, Georgia could have its first democratic governor in nearly 20 years. With everything at stake, it's especially important that voters know how and where to vote.

"We believe your voice matters, and as a nonpartisan organization, we should promote options which often promote opinions," said Jones. "Most importantly, we need to educate people on why voting is important."

The Public Service club has hosted several events over the past week to get students ready to vote. A mock election was hosted by the club that educat-

ed students about Georgia's government. A voter registration drive was held in the grassy triangle where anyone could learn about their registration status and find their voting precinct location.

This was especially helpful to college students, who might be unfamiliar with their status as new voters and could be living far away from their usual polling place. Students who live on campus have the option to vote at West Commons, so long as they are registered to vote in Carroll County.

As the next generation comes of age, the political landscape of the United States has great potential to change. According to Georgia Public Broadcasting, 1.5 million people registered to vote in the last four years, many of them being young people and minorities. With today's easy access to information and education, more people than ever are motivated to vote.

While it is too late to register to vote in the midterm elections, prospective voters can register at anytime online at <https://registertovote.sos.ga.gov/GAOLVR/welcometoga.do#no-back-button>. Oct. 28 is the last day to request an absentee ballot for those unable to travel to their polling location on voting day. Early voting began on Oct. 17 and goes until Nov. 4th. Election day is Nov. 8th.

Get out there and get your voice heard!

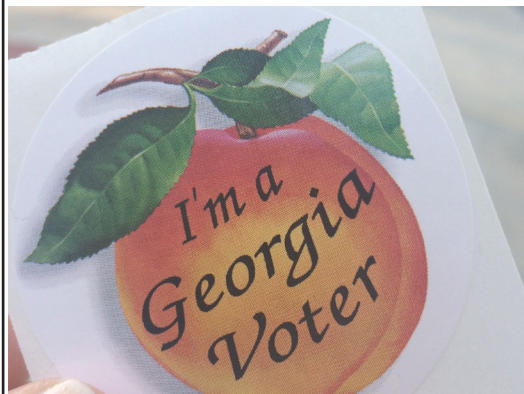


Photo courtesy of Georgia.gov

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UNIVERSITY OF WEST GEORGIA'S QUEER STUDENT ALLIANCE CELEBRATES 50 YEARS ON CAMPUS

ANNA ROBERTS

Contributing Writer

West Georgia's Queer Student Alliance (QSA) celebrated its 50th Anniversary on Oct. 13.

Founded in the fall of 1972 by Dr. Ara Dostourian, the Queer Student Alliance is an organization for LGBTQ+ students and allies. They serve as a social club and a safe space that encourages and promotes activism, along with promoting solidarity on campus and in the surrounding region.

"To me, it is a safe space that fosters unity and works towards a better, friendlier West Georgia," said Grayson Boyd, President of the Queer Student Alliance. "I've gotten emails from incoming freshmen wanting to know the safety of campus and if there are resources available for them. We might not know every gay person on campus, but we try to make sure every gay person knows of us

and knows that they have a welcoming space with us."

Throughout the year, QSA holds regular weekly meetings, Valentine's box drive and an annual Drag Show, their largest event. Leading up to their big 50th celebration, QSA celebrated Pride Week with a fun event each day on campus beginning on Oct. 7. They gave out free ice cream, held a unity panel and hosted Safe Zone training. Their 50th birthday bash was held on campus on Oct. 13 and was open to students, alumni, faculty and the community. QSA ended the week with a family-friendly Pride event hosted at 4am Coffee Roasters Cafe & Bar on Oct. 14.

Currently, QSA holds the title of the oldest non-Greek organization on campus according to Wolf Connect, UWG's club and organizations online portal.

"50 years on campus to me means unfiltered queer joy," said Boyd. "Generations of people tied together through some form of camaraderie. If I don't leave anything behind, I want peo-

ple to look back with joy."

QSA's goal for the future is to simply persist. They want to continue to foster an environment that people want to come to and feel safe being in. For the next 50 years, they want to see QSA's mission live on and membership continue to grow, giving queer students a place they can call home.

"Support your queer family and friends any way you can," said Boyd.

QSA welcomes any allies interested in supporting the community and invites the queer community to attend their events to hang out in a safe space. To stay up to date on current events, follow them on Instagram @uwg_qsa.



Photo: Anna Roberts, The West Georgian

LIVING WEST

“INFINITE WEIGHT: PRESENT HISTORIES” EXHIBITION OPENS IN NEWNAN’S VAULT GALLERY

JANNETTE EMMERICK

Feature Editor

The Vault Gallery in Newnan opened the “Infinite Weight: Present Histories” exhibition on Oct. 7, displaying photography from across the States. UWG’s Senior Lecturer of Art, Stephanie Smith, manages the Newnan exhibition hall and invited Hallie Ringle, the Chief Curator of the Institute of Contemporary Art for the University of Pennsylvania, to curate the month-long event.

“We had a great reception last Friday,” said Smith. “We had a great turnout of about 50 or so people. Especially since it was during fall break. A bunch of students came, a bunch of faculty and the local Newnan community.”

Located in Wadsworth Auditorium, the Vault Gallery is owned by the city of Newnan and lent to UWG to exhibit photography, traditional art and other art forms hosted or created through UWG’s Visual Arts program.

The featured photographers in this exhibit live in all corners of the U.S., including Southern residents from Florida to Mississippi, Northern residents from Michigan to New York, and from the midwest, including Kansas to even further West in California.

“Two of [the artists] live in Georgia and came, which was really cool,” said Smith. “They talked a little bit about their work that was selected.”

“Infinite Weight” is a juried photography exhibition, meaning that UWG elected Ringle to select works and essentially organize the show according to the broad theme.

“She flew in and gave a talk about the show,” said Smith. “She was



there to talk about her selection process.”

The prompt of the exhibition is solely the title “Infinite Weight: Present Histories,” which encouraged works embodying the concept in overt or ambiguous ways. Naturally, the entries shared similar traits, with many depicting abandoned places, historic landmarks and the cosmos in regards to space, history and places.

“[Ringle] curates a lot of exhibitions and looks at a lot of art, and since the pandemic, she’s seen a lot of artists addressing that experience and making work about that,” said Smith. “She was pleasantly surprised at this. When she started crafting the show and picking works that spoke to one another, the works she picked really don’t do that. She felt that [the ones she selected] were sort of a more joyous nature. They do address place, location, space—but then we have two photos in there of really close up shots of mice, so it’s a good variety of images.”

The featured photographs capture sentiments surrounding history and the environment. Every photo evokes an awareness of spacetime through the many expansive landscapes, ordinary people and small creatures.

“There’s one set of photographs that

use this ancient technique. They remind me of Dutch still life paintings of fruit and flowers,” said Smith. “They are playing off a historical genre, but they are kind of decimated fruit. They sort of look a bit post-apocalyptic.

“[The exhibition] was a range [of styles],” Smith continued. “From some black and white photography, we have two videos that were accepted that were playing in the gallery. There are some techniques called palladium prints—There’s a cyanotype. So we have traditional processes and then really contemporary, like digital and video.”

Many techniques and creative art decisions individualize each piece, yet the theme strings them all together.

“Infinite Weight” ends Nov. 3, so until then, UWG students and the community are invited to see the free exhibition Thursdays and Fridays from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

“This is the first juried exhibition that we’ve ever organized,” said Smith. “For [photography professors] Mark Schoon and John Morris, this was a dream of theirs to bring this level of contemporary photography to West Georgia.”

WEST WINGS: ON CAMPUS FOOD REVIEW

DOUGLAS SALTER

Contributing Writer

West Wings arrived this semester as the newest restaurant to UWG’s campus, which had students lining up for days. They are located next to The UWG bookstore, replacing Heavenly Bowls after they moved to the UCC.

West Wings offers bone-in, boneless wings and chicken tenders. You can get your chicken tossed in eight different flavors to choose from. The options for veggies are carrots or celery and, like most wing spots, have both blue cheese or ranch to go on the side of the wings. Their sides are trademarked to be called “Epic Sides” which include fries, house chips, fried pickle straws and onion rings.

West Wings is a simple fast food type service. It takes a few minutes for the wings to cook, however the wait is not excessively long. I ordered ten bone-in wings with the Honey BBQ flavor. The wings are covered very well with sauce and it is the best part about

the wings. The sauce was sweet with a smoky finish which creates an immaculate blend. However, the chicken itself could be deemed a little disappointing. Most of the wings were good, however some of the wings were overcooked and left a burnt taste in my mouth.

For my “Epic Side,” I ordered french fries. Sadly, the fries were even more disappointing than some of the wings. I am someone who often says it is difficult to mess up fries. West Wing’s fries gave off more of a sweet and soft flavor than the salty and golden crunch flavor that I value in fries. I dipped my fries in my wing sauce to maybe improve the fries, but it did little to no help.

Ultimately, West Wings can

be seen as overhyped. The food was disappointing. However, it is quite convenient for students who stay on campus and cannot afford off campus dining. It is a great option for those who want to use dining dollars.

The unit rate price for wings is not terrible, making for a good deal. Wings range from \$6.99 to \$17.99, tenders range from \$5.99 to \$8.99, and sides range from \$2.49 to \$3.19.

West Wings is open Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. The service is good and the restaurant has a friendly ambiance. I would rate West Wings a six out of 10. I might be back later on only because it is an easy option, but not anytime soon.



Photo: Douglas Salter, *The West Georgian*

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LIVING WEST

WORD OF LIFE
GOSPEL MINISTRIES
PRESENTS FALL
FESTIVITIES

BRIANNA WELCH
Contributing Writer

Carrollton’s Word of Life Gospel Ministries is hosting its second annual fall festival on Oct. 30 with thrilling and entertaining activities for all ages.

This local festival is one of the many fall festivals of the season that will be kicking off during the Halloween weekend. This event is in a family-friendly environment and will be occurring at 1633 Bankhead Hwy. The festival will host a Trunk or Treat event so the visitors have candy to munch on as they enjoy the festivities.

Myranda Duncan is the Word of Life Gospel Ministries worship leader and coordinator of the event. She assists with communications on behalf of the church, working alongside her father and church founder, Pastor Keith Jiles.

“There will be some different games,” said Duncan. “And then face painting, some pumpkin painting, different kinds of fall games like that.”

The popularity of Trunk or Treat festivals begins with



Image courtesy of Word of Life Gospel Ministries

churches wishing to bring fun and the Gospel to the community. Trunk or Treat festivals also offer safe places to trick-or-treat without the extensive walking or long driveways.

The Word of Life Fall Festival will contain many traditional fall activities for the attendees besides the trunk or treat. Bouncy houses and food will also be a part of the festival. Do not feel as if this event is only intended for small children; it is meant for teenagers and adults as well. This festival caters to all age demographics and welcomes older kids who want to partake in the trunk or treat and additional activities.

“It’s just going to be a fun time outside and just the trunks and stuff like that,” said Duncan.

Only members of the church

or those who have contacted Duncan before the event will be passing out candy with their registered Trunk or Treat vehicles; however, all are welcome to come and enjoy the event regardless of whether they attend the church or not.

This free event will start at 4 p.m. and is expected to last until 7 p.m. It is encouraged to dress up in a Halloween costume to add to the experience. All young children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Any additional questions about this event should be directed towards Duncan or other staff of the church. Further information can also be found on their website at www.wolgm.com.

“Just come for a fun time with your family and enjoy some Christian faith fun with your family,” said Duncan.

UWG WOMEN’S
BASKETBALL GETS A
NEW COACHING STAFF

EMMA WORLEY
Contributing Writer

Joanna Reitz joined the University of West Georgia’s staff as new women’s basketball coach in April. Not only bringing in her own expertise, Reitz also hired new staff to assist and utilize their skills for the team.

Reitz comes from a background of high-level assistant coaching at D1 and D2 schools. Before coming to Carrollton, she was at the University of Utah, University of South Carolina-Aiken, Mercer University, Shorter University and Florida State University. Reitz herself played basketball at Covenant College.

After assistant coaching for many years, Reitz now operates the position of head coach.

“When I interviewed, I was impressed with the leadership and camaraderie of the staff,” said Reitz. “Second, I loved the opportunity to be the head coach. Lastly, I liked the idea of balance. When I was at Utah, I worked constantly and was on the road all the time. Being here it will not be that way.”

The Wolves’ season is approaching fast and she could not be more excited to get this season started with her new girls.

“I love watching our team get better,” said Reitz. “Already in these two months I have seen improvement in the skill level as individuals and the team improve. I am excited to watch the

team get better everyday.”

This season is going to be a great rebuilding year for the women’s basketball team. They are starting from the ground up to be the best in the division. Reitz has many goals to improve the program.

“There are really three simple things that make a team great,” said Reitz. “These three things are talent, culture, and habits.

“Talent comes from recruiting and working on player development,” continued Reitz. “Culture is what we are being right now. It defines who we are. It is just the behaviors we allow and how we act. I am excited with the group I have now and the foundation we are building for years to come.”

Revamping a new atmosphere under her coaching style and standards will require teamwork above all else. Not only navigating the new dynamics with the coaching staff but also with the new players on the roster. UWG women’s basketball has a long fun-filled season ahead of them.

As a new team, they have the potential to develop stronger skills and transform. The women’s basketball team has a great future ahead of them.

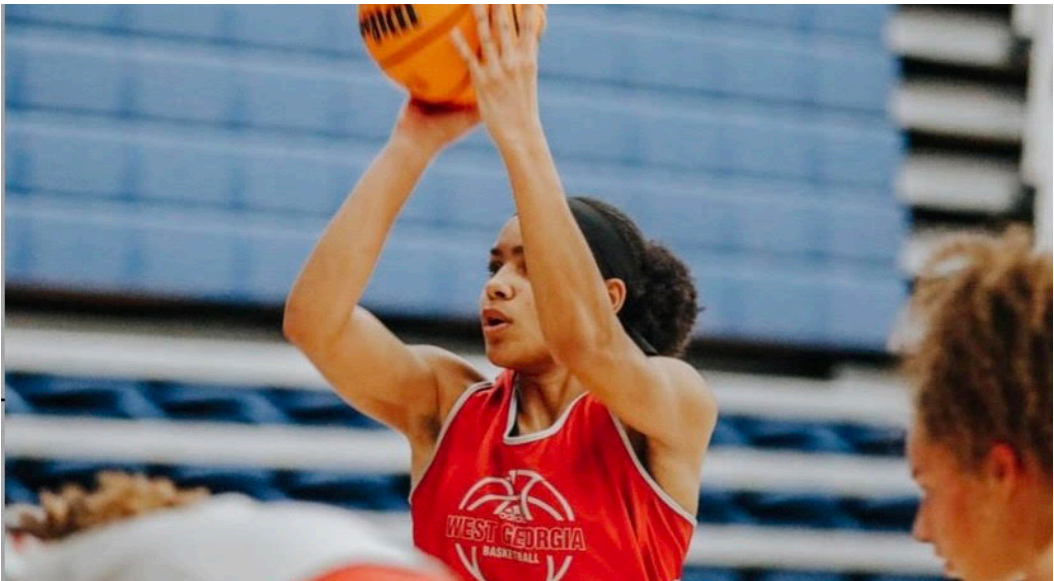


Photo Courtesy of UWG Athletics