



UWG STUDENT WALKS ATLANTA FASHION SHOW

MYLES WILLIAMS

Contributing Writer

Everything is lights, cameras and runway for debuting model, Kyndall Curry. She had the opportunity to be a part of the Winter Collection Fashion show on Jan. 20 at The Bassmint Studios in Atlanta, Ga. Roy Williams Jr. and Lexy Gray hosted the event to increase exposure for social media influencers and models.

Curry has been modeling since 2021. “All my life, I had long legs and a pretty face,” said Curry. “A lot of people told me I should model. Of course I didn’t see it, but when I got to college and saw there was a modeling club, I thought it would be fun to try it out. Then a beautiful model outside of the club named Cleo helped me perfect my runway walk and helped me get into more shows in Atlanta. After that I just networked from there.”

The Winter Collection called for models on social media for their upcoming fashion show. Curry heard from her brother that the event was happening and he recommended that she should try it out.

“I attended the practices and found out that some people were from the University of West Georgia and thought that it would be an even greater opportunity to be a part of,” said Curry. “Practices were fun, I learned different ways of walking up the runway, new types of poses to use, new terminology and we even got to do a media day where we got to collaborate with some of the brands who were going to be in the show as well, so I really enjoyed it.”

During the show Curry worked alongside Instagram influencer Theowissh, who has a following of over 663 thousand.

“I didn’t actually know they were influencers at first, but they were great spirits to be with and learn a lot from because

I don’t really talk to a lot of male models, so when I do, it’s a great an experience to learn what they go through and how their walk is different from ours,” said Curry.

Along with walking in the show, Curry used the show as an opportunity to network with other models and grow her connections in the industry.

“[The show] helped me get in touch with different designers like Corbin and Reese Alexander, so I can work with them in the future and do more photoshoots with them,” said Curry. “Even within the show I met other designers who were in the crowd and I got a lot more followers because other models were at the show as well. The experience gave me a good networking opportunity to get out there more.”

Overall, Curry was thrilled to be involved in this opportunity to help her grow and become more known in the modeling industry.

“I had a good time,” said Curry. “My friends and family were there to support me and it was a packed event.”



Photo Courtesy of Queze Boykin

HOW TO BUILD A BETTER BUDGET WITH BUDGETING APPS

RACHAEL BROWN

Contributing Writer

Dr. Charles Hodges, UWG professor of finance, gives students resources to build a better budget and prepare for unexpected financial challenges.

Before students can create a budget, there are a few things they need to do first.

“The first thing that you should do at all is goal setting,” said Hodges. “This is because you should be dedicating your time and money to achieving goals.”

Once students have their financial goals in mind, they can move on to step two.

“The second thing is you need to figure out where you’re at and what I would suggest is that you use one of these personal budgeting apps,” said Hodges. “I happen to use Mint.com, but there’s a bunch of them out there.”

Some other apps Hodges recommends are Personal Capital, Tiller, Monarch Money, CountAbout, Simplifi, You Need a Budget and PocketSmith. Wells Fargo and Bank of America also have budgeting tools for their members.

“[Mint] will show you what your personal wealth is, it shows me the balance on every credit card and it would show me if I had student loans,” said Hodges.

“It estimates the value of my house every week, it estimates the value of my car every week, it can show me when bills are due and the main thing that it does that you would find useful is it shows your transactions and it classifies them.”

Once students have done this, creating a budget is as simple as pressing a button.

“If you click on ‘add a budget,’ it will analyze your spending for the last three months and it will create a budget based on your spending and then you can modify it over time,” said Hodges. “Then if there’s something that really worries you, you can set up a category that is important to you and you can tell it, ‘I want you to tell me how much I spend on that.’”

For surprises and unexpected rises in costs, flexibility is essential.

“You have to have some sort of built-in flexibility, and for me the built-in flexibility is to have an emergency fund,” said Hodges. “For you, the built-in flexibility is to have a credit card that’s not maxed out. That way,

if the price of gas doubles, you can still afford it for a few months because you can put it on your credit card.

“For me, I’m older, I’ve got the income,” continued Hodges. “And at my age, my income is not going to go up. For you, your income is going to go up, so it makes sense for you to be going into debt. For me, it makes sense to be getting out of debt.”

Hodges stresses the importance of students being honest with themselves when it comes to creating a budget.

“If you’ve got a vice, put it in the budget,” said Hodges. “So if you’re drinking to black out every Friday night, don’t pretend you’re going to quit doing that, put it in the dang budget.”

In addition to being honest, Hodges emphasizes the importance of being accountable to others.

“Whatever you’re trying to accomplish, you cannot do it on your own,” said Hodges. “You’ve absolutely got to get other people involved who can help you. Most of your goals will need teams to get it done, and a lot of us are shy about communicating these things. The reality is that we should share our goals with others, even if it’s embarrassing.”

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LIVING WEST

DR. NEEMA NORI UNPACKS HIS PAST AND PRESENT HISTORY WITH IRAN

MARIA JESUS MARTINEZ

Contributing Writer

Dr. Neema Nori, professor of criminology and sociology at UWG, teaches about the Middle East. His Iranian American identity and his knowledge of the culture motivate him to speak out against the Iranian regime.

“My father immigrated from Iran in the 1950s and met my mom in Colorado,” said Nori. “When I was about four or five, we moved to Iran.”

His father started teaching at the University of Isfahan. In 1977, they left the country and later returned in 1979 after the Iranian Revolution overthrew the Shah’s regime due to foreign intervention, inflation, and political repression and the Islamic Republic of Iran was installed under the rule of Ruhollah Khomeini.

“I remember seeing excitement in the air because nobody knew what the new regime would be like, so people were very optimistic about the future,” said Nori.

However, the country became militarized and children, including Nori, collected bullets on the ground that were leftover from shootings. Over time, the supporters of the Islamic Republic began taking power. Nori remembers seeing his own mother being forced to use an Islamic veil and how radical students controlled universities.

“There was a University professor who was Bahá’í, a religious minority in Iran, and the students started targeting her. My father tried to defend her, but he realized that this was a place where there’s not a lot of room for being religiously or politically different,” said Nori. “He could tell that the atmosphere was becoming more and more repressive and that this would be a very difficult place to raise a child or for his wife to be free.”

They left Iran, with some money sewn in Nori’s coat, since the country prohibited Iranians from taking money out of the borders.

Nori now lives with his wife and children in Carrollton. His daughter goes to college and his son attends high school. They are rooted in a country that has freedom and democracy, something that his father always dreamed of.

Nevertheless, his ties with Iran are still current. His cousins still live there and speak with them once a month through Telegram. However, the Iranian Government has been shutting down access to Telegram to control the protest movement in regards to 21-year-old Mahsa Amini’s death.

The protests began on Sep. 16, 2022 when Amini was detained and killed by the Police Morality for allegedly using her hijab incorrectly. Since then, many women stopped wearing veils and began protesting, along with other Iranians who were discontent with the regime’s results. Religious and ethnic discrimination, inflation, water shortage, almost-non-existent political representation are just a few

symptoms of the regime’s control.

The government suppressed protests by killing over 500 people and injuring or arresting over 19,200.

Nori does not talk to his family about politics through text message, as he thinks they might get in trouble with the government. When they see each other in person they complain about the exponential inflation, despite making ends meet. The last time Nori visited Iran was in 2009.

“Over the last decade, people who have an Iranian parent and an American one have been targeted by the government for silly things,” said Nori. “I am a little worried about going back because they could send me to prison and call me a spy.”

Even though Nori’s family are not activists, one of his cousins contacted him last fall.

“My cousin wrote to us and said ‘I am not wearing the scarf anymore,’ but I don’t know if she is still doing that or not,” said Nori.

His family contemplates moving elsewhere but are reluctant because of their economic situation, deep-rooted fear of homesickness and the need to take care of their older relatives.

“It is about balancing a lot of different factors,” said Nori. “It’s not an easy decision to make.”

Meanwhile, it is uncertain whether the protest can overthrow the regime or if there is going to be an improvement in Iran’s policies.

“The government still has a lot of support and there are constituencies who are economically tied to it,” said Nori. “It’s really unclear what the future holds.”

PAINTING AND PINTS AT PRINTER’S ALE BREWERY

JAMIE COCHRAN

Contributing Writer

Printer’s Ale Manufacturing Company hosts “Sip and Paint Party” on Sunday, Feb. 5 from 2-5 p.m, where they will be brewing craft beers while guests attend an art workshop.

Brittany Jackson, owner of Brushstrokes with Britt, brings a unique painting experience to breweries and wine bars in the western Atlanta area. She will be at Printer’s Ale located at 940 Columbia Drive in Carrollton, Ga for a painting party. For \$40, guests will get a seat to paint a vibrant sunset wine glass on a 10x20 canvas and a free craft beer. Painters of all levels of experience are welcome.

“We all sit together, and I walk you through step by step,” said Brittany. “I paint or I walk around and help you paint.”

Printer’s Ale is a family owned business originating back to the 1800s. It began as a company printing record labels. In 1982, the business expanded to Carrollton, Ga. to service multiple record companies. They are still a printing

company to this day while operating a 20 barrel system production brewery and taproom keeping at least 16 different craft beers on tap at all times.

Everything is brewed in-house. Non-alcoholic beverages such as seltzer waters, craft root beer and cream soda are also served for those who may choose not to consume alcohol.

“Everyone is welcome to come,” said Brittany. “You will paint and drink your way through a Sunday afternoon.”

Extra space will be set up for kids and adults to play games inside and outside. Rivera’s BBQ food truck will be serving Texas-style BBQ with slow-smoked meats that brings a taste of Texas right to the local community.

“We have everything from giant Jenga, Jumanji and cornhole,” said Jessica Wasson, the marketing director for Print-

er’s Ale. “There will be picnic tables and plenty of space for the kids to run around. Guests can bring their own food or order through the food truck.”

The room will be set up around 1 p.m. and guests are free to come in early to grab a drink and a seat. Brittany will offer step-by-step instructions to create a masterpiece and provide all the supplies needed to do so. Printer’s Ale’s paint party will bring a unique painting experience for any skill set and all materials will be provided to the attendees.

“It’s a pretty relaxing and fun environment,” said Jessica. “It’s a great place to be on a Sunday.”

Jackson provides more painting classes at different Carrollton locations that can be found on her website brushstrokeswithbritt.com.

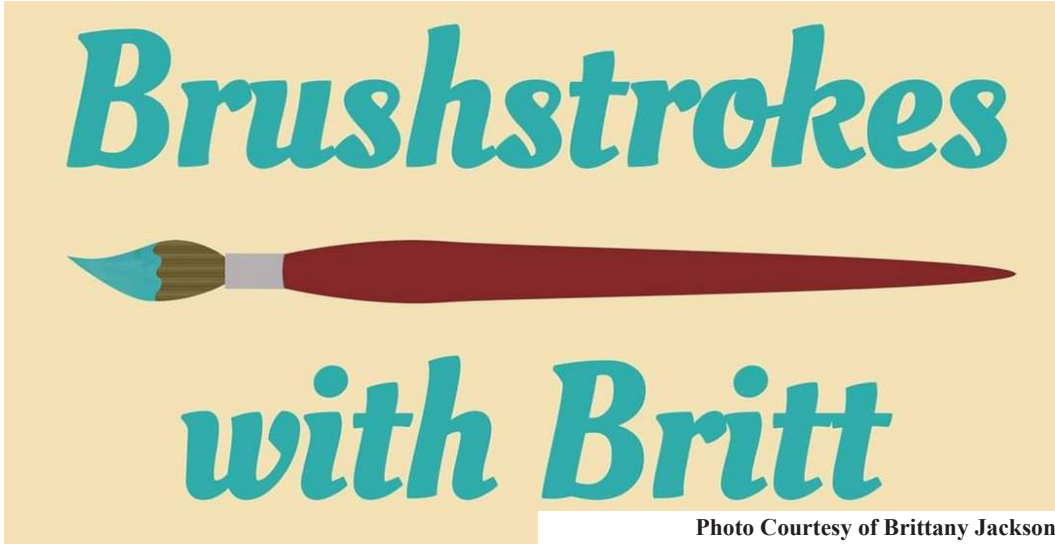


Photo Courtesy of Brittany Jackson

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SPORTS

ANTHONY CALABRO DISCUSSES UWG PREPARATION AHEAD OF 2023 SEASON OPENER

GEORGE EDWARDS
Contributing Writer

The first pitch of the 2023 UWG baseball season is imminent. The team strives to start strong on Feb. 3 for their home opener against Augusta University, who struggled in 2022 (14-34 Overall). UWG also looks to upset the Preseason Coaches' Poll which slate the team to finish 9th in the 2023 Gulf South Conference.

"I can guarantee you that's not where we're gonna be at the end of the season," says Outfielder Anthony Calabro. "We're too good to be there with all the new transfers we've got."

UWG finished 10th in the Gulf South Conference (GSC) last year, despite its positive overall record (24-20). The team failed to make the playoffs after a negative conference record (13-16).

"I think last year we definitely should've been higher than we were – our talent was there, but we just couldn't get it done," says Calabro.

A successful season for UWG hinges on improving their conference record.

"I don't see a lot of teams that we can't take at least two or three from with the guys we've got," says Calabro. "We've gotta come back this year and shock some people."

Calabro, now in his junior year, is fresh off making

the 2023 Preseason All-Conference Team. After an impressive personal 2022 season, it is no surprise that the Florida native is looking to drive both himself and the team to another level in the upcoming season.

"We've just gotta clean up, our defense has been a little sloppy the past couple days, but honestly, on the hitting side we're gonna do some damage," says Calabro.

If a .343 batting average and 42 runs batted in last year weren't enough to exemplify Calabro's status as a key player on UWG's roster, an impressive 21 stolen bases further indicate the 6-foot right-hander's stellar 2022 season.

"Every year I'm looking to get better, that's just what it's about," says Calabro. "The coaches trust me, and I trust them with their calls. The coaching staff here has been really good about putting it on me and I love running – if I've got the pitcher

timed up, I'm gonna take it."

After a respectable tally of eight home runs in 2022, Calabro is looking for more in 2023.

"I don't want to put a number on it, but double digits would be cool," says Calabro. "I haven't done it before, so that would be pretty exciting, but honestly I'm just trying to get at-bats put together. If it happens, it happens."

Looking back to opening day of West Georgia's 2022 season, the team beat Kentucky State in a convincing 14-1 win. Calabro put together a standout performance in the game with three runs scored, two runs batted in and a hit to go along with two walks.

"Starting off hot is cool, but it's staying consistent that's gonna keep you in the lineup," says Calabro. "I'm never gonna be content, I'm always looking to be better. Whether I'm fielding ground balls in the outfield, catching fly balls or hitting. Everything matters."



Photo Courtesy of Brain Campbell

PAISHENCE COLLIER JUMPS NATIONAL PROVISIONAL MARK

SAMIRA BARNETT
News Editor

Paishence Collier, a track and field athlete from the University of West Georgia, sets a new record with a 5.95m (19-6) jump at the University of South Carolina (USC) indoor meet. Collier now ranks first in the Gulf South Conference (GSC) for indoors and eighth in Division II, hitting a national provisional mark.

Collier's first full year competing in both indoor and outdoor after the aftermath of COVID was last year, resulting in a trial-and-error process before breaking many personal records. She began long jumping in her senior year of high school and has made remarkable progress over time.

"My goal for the most part is natty's (Indoor National Meet) for sure," said Col-

lier. "I have been here for the past four years and through the obstacles, I am at a place where nationals shouldn't be a problem."

"Once I get to a certain place, I feel like I can advance my talent to a different level," Collier continued.

Collier has set many goals with two indoor meets left before the big day, including the USC meet held this weekend, Feb. 3-4, and the GSC championships, Feb. 15-16.

"I feel like I am going to get another big jump when we go to South Carolina which will seed me even higher in the ranks of top 10," said Collier. "I definitely think I can be in the high 20s for sure if I keep grinding the way I am."

Collier holds UWG indoor records in four events, the 200 meter, 400 meter, long jump and 4x4 relay. While earning her Master's Degree in the fall, she plans to use her last year of eligibility to continue her journey on the track at UWG.

"With the talent and dedication that I have, I definitely have a huge chance in going pro whether that is in the U.S. [United States] or overseas," said Collier. "Dream big because I'm not dreaming small."

It took hard work and dedication for her to get to where she is now.

"I have been putting in the work, being consistent, hydrating and going outside of hours while still training," Collier said. "I can't only give myself thanks but thanks to God for how I'm continuing to progress within the program."

With outdoor fast approaching, she intends to improve her long jump, 200 meter, and relay times. She could potentially qualify for nationals in the long jump and break her outdoor personal record of 19-4.

"I think qualifying for outdoor nationals will be a little more challenging but not impossible," said Collier.

Collier maintains a positive attitude throughout training, striving to be the best athlete she can be.

"I lock in and visualize myself doing things before I go into a meet," Collier said. "Your mindset can't just be looking at your competition and how they may do today."

"You have to go in and compete for you," Collier continued. "I know another big jump is coming. Everything is falling into line, I'm going to nationals."



Photo Courtesy of Paiscence Collier

ENTERTAINMENT

ATLIENS TRANSPORTS THE TABERNACLE ON SPACE CATHEDRAL TOUR

ALANNA KING

Editor-in-Chief

The Tabernacle faced its biggest threat yet last weekend. The city's staple music venue hosted The Space Cathedral tour which nearly brought the building down with bass. Atlanta native DJs ATLiens along with supporting artists He\$h, Space Wizard, Calcium and others brought a night of dubstep that won't be forgotten.

This sold-out hometown event was the third stop on The Space Cathedral tour to promote headliner ATLiens newest EP. While the mystical duo has been DJing since 2012, they have recently taken off as a household name performing at festivals such as Lost Lands and Imagine and headlining their own shows. The pair are known for their avatars dressed in black hoodies and silver face masks with red LED lights for eyes, concealing their true identity. They never speak, both on and off the stage, letting their wompy bass do the talking for them.

Jkyl & Hyde opened the night, priming the crowd with classic EDM bangers and their own remixes. The rest of the openers consisted of back-to-back (B2B) DJs, leaving two performers on the stage at all times. Following Jkyl & Hyde was Atlanta's up and coming Drinkurwater who snatched the controls from partner Space Wizard. While B2Bs are traditionally supposed to be a benevolent collaboration, the two DJs toggled from fighting over the mixer to jamming out with each other. This odd co-production made for some choppy bass that

the crowd definitely noticed. The two DJs' visual artists went back and forth, contrasting between Drinkurwater's cartoon-like animation and Space Wizard's spacey, fantastical style. This B2B felt like a battle more than a cooperation.

Longtime collaborators He\$h and Calcium grabbed the board next, going back-to-back with enough riddim to sway the building. He\$h frequently encouraged mosh pits in the general admission crowd right below the stage, as is characteristic of his sets. This high energy continued into ATLiens set, opening with their classic emergency broadcast warning of multiple unidentified objects entering the earth's atmosphere. The pair wordlessly entered the stage and got the party started.

The performance was everything that fans want from ATLiens. Their characteristic unnerving, intense visuals, heavy wobbles and wumps complimented beats with both trance

and trap style rhythms. If any DJs were to represent Atlanta's EDM scene, it's this duo. The synergy between the two was unmatched, with each DJ taking turns to hype up the crowd and control the mixer. There was not a single lull during the set. Everyone in the audience matched the intergalactic vibe that the DJs were giving off. From the pit to the nosebleeds there was not a blasé raver in sight.

As a first time Tabernacle visitor, I did not know what to expect from the venue. Now I can say that this might be the best music house in Atlanta. The event was organized, the staff was welcoming and helpful and the drinks were poured heavily. The venue was charming and full of rich music history while still being clean and refined. The space is still small enough to feel intimate with the audience and performers, but large enough to house various areas for guests to spread out and feel comfortable. There is a special vibe at the Tabernacle I have yet to feel anywhere else.



Alanna King, *The West Georgian*