



Daisy Gonzales-Castaneda: Celebrating Hispanic Heritage as a Trailblazer on Homecoming Court

Cindy Martinez
Copy Editor

Daisy Gonzales-Castaneda, a first-generation college student, has been chosen for this year's homecoming court, making her a spotlight figure just in time for Hispanic Heritage Month. As she embraces her role in the spotlight, Gonzales hopes to use this opportunity to raise awareness on the importance of representation and inspire others in her community.

Gonzales, a junior majoring in journalism, is known for her strong leadership skills and involvement on campus. She serves as the president of Lambda Theta Alpha Latin Sorority Incorporated (LTA), a sorority focused on empowering women with unity, love and respect and promoting diversity. Running a solo chapter as a neo of Lambda Theta Alpha, Gonzales takes her commitment even further, working to create opportunities for potential members to grow and connect.

In addition to her role in the sorority, Gonzales is a multimedia journalist at WUTV, the campus television station. Gonzales has also brought news in English and Spanish.

Gonzales is also starting to branch out into a new form of communication and volunteers at WOLF Radio. As the social media director for the Marketing Club's executive board, she promotes events and engages with students on social media.

"I enjoy West Wolf Community in so many different areas on campus," Gonzales said. "It helps me connect with people from all walks of life and share our stories."

This year, Gonzales decided to run for homecoming court because she wanted to represent the Hispanic community on campus.

"I wanted to run for homecoming court to represent not just myself but the Hispanic community," she



Photo courtesy of UWG Campus Life

explained. "It's important for students to see someone who looks like them in leadership positions."

Her decision to run for homecoming court aligns perfectly with the celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, which honors the contributions and achievements of Hispanic and Latino individuals. Gonzales' presence on the court serves as a reminder of the richness of Hispanic culture and its significance within the university community.

Gonzales embraces her cultural identity and actively works to create spaces where Hispanic students feel welcomed and valued. She understands first-generation college students' challenges and uses them as motivation to keep achieving.

Gonzales' involvement in various campus activities shows her dedication to making a difference. She believes representation matters and wants other students to feel inspired to step into leadership roles.

As homecoming approaches, Gonzales is excited to connect with her fellow students and celebrate the diversity that makes her university

THIS WEEK:

Living West

PAGES 1-2

Daisy Gonzales-Castaneda: Celebrating Hispanic Heritage as a Trailblazer on Homecoming Court
By Cindy Martinez

An Inside Look at the UWG Tailgate Tradition
By Courtney Bixby

The Vogue Academy Brings Fashion and Modeling to UWG
By Milan Berrian

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

PAGES 3-4

Tongues of Fire Stays Loyal to Underground Atlanta
By Emma Swales

Joker: Folie à Deux is the Chaotic Sequel for the Complex Villain
By Breanna Tillie

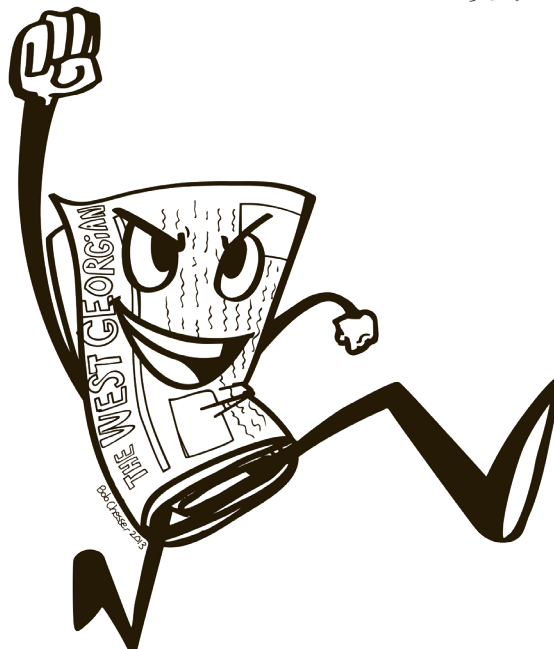
Gracie Abrams Returns to Atlanta For a Sold Out Show on The Secret of Us Tour
By Abbie Klein

unique.

"I want everyone to feel proud of their heritage and know they belong here," she said. "Together, we can create a campus environment where everyone feels included and celebrated."

Gonzales' journey is a powerful reminder of one person's impact on a community. As she steps onto the homecoming court, she does so as a representative of herself, a voice for her Hispanic peers and an advocate for positive change. Her story inspires students to embrace their identities and strive for leadership, fostering a more inclusive and vibrant campus environment for all.

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An Inside Look at the UWG Tailgating Tradition

Courtney Bixby
Contributing Writer

The tradition of tailgating has made its way into the University of West Georgia football stadium. Tailgating is an opportunity for students to gather and eat food in the back of parked vehicles before a sports game. The university has designated “The Hill,” for students to engage with the community and enjoy activities before the start of the game.

The Center for Student Involvement & Inclusion and Student Affairs have worked to bring a fun and welcoming environment to The Hill. Last year they were able to offer things such as food trucks, free shirts, pie in the face competition, dance competitions and competition games for the students. The Hill is free for all students, but will fill up on a first-come, first-serve basis. Tailgating for students opens four hours before kickoff, giving students plenty of time to meet new people and play plenty of games.

One of the biggest events during a UWG tailgate is the Wolf Walk to welcome our wolves onto the field. This happens around two hours before the game as students line up to cheer on the wolves next to the cheerleaders and fans. Students and fans can take pictures, briefly meet the players and wish the coaches luck

on their game all while enjoying the music from the West Georgia Band. Tickets bought for the Wolf Walk include a tent, two chairs, a table and parking. The walk is full of exciting fans and shapes the fun atmosphere of West Georgia football games.

Tailgating is also available for fans and alumni in several areas. Spots may be reserved in Lot B, The Wolf Walk, or The Wolves Tailgate Lot. Locations such as Lot B even include RV hookups for overnight parking. These spots are available to purchase up to three days before the game and give the community and alumni a chance to cheer on their favorite team. When the wolves are on the road, the university will often host alumni and friends for a watch party.

The university also offers a Junior Wolves program allowing kids from 0-12 to enjoy activities associated with The Wolves. This program is an annual membership and the kids have access to fun activities such as bouncy houses, face painting and they will have an opportunity to lead the West Georgia Wolves onto the field. Junior wolves enrolled in the program will get free admission to home games, admission into Saturday basketball games, free

t-shirts, a monthly e-newsletter, and a birthday message from student athletes.

October marks the exciting weeks of homecoming for the university. There will be a homecoming tailgate party on Oct. 16, including activities, food and music. The tailgate begins at 11a.m. and the Wolf Walk begins at 12p.m. Homecoming royalty will be honored and the crowning will occur at halftime giving all students and fans a chance to recognize our royalty and their spirit during the game.

For more information on the location and time, visit our athletics page.

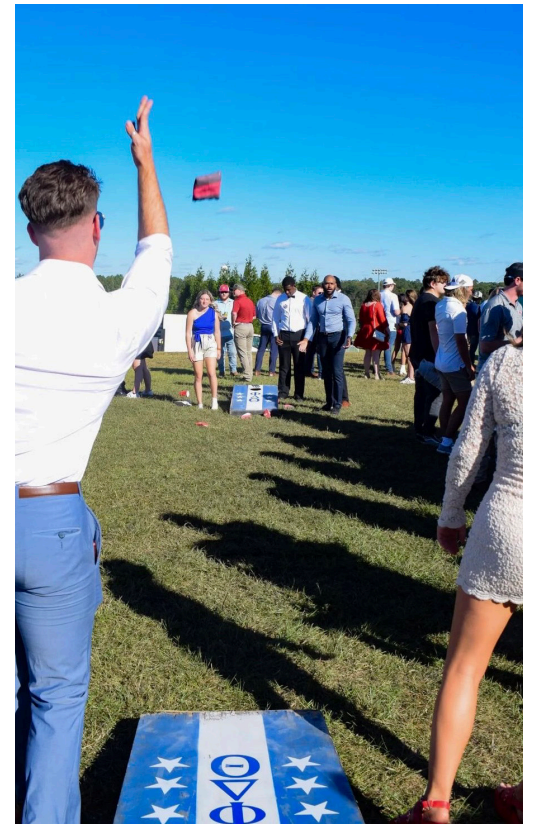


Photo: Courtney Bixby, *The West Georgian*

The Vogue Academy Brings Fashion and Modeling to UWG

Milan Berrian
Contributing Writer



Photo courtesy of
Morgan June

The Vogue Academy is a student-led organization that explores opportunities in the world of fashion modeling. The organization emphasizes community service, making a positive impact on our campus through various initiatives.

Vice President Morgan June has been involved with Vogue Academy since her freshman year in 2022.

“Over the years, I’ve grown as a model and

person. Moving from model, to creative director, to lead creative director to vice president,” said June.

June is an exceptional role model and leader for the Vogue Academy, organizing events and shows, taking pictures at photoshoots and partnering with area fashion-related businesses.

“Receiving recognition for the hard work I’ve put in is incredibly rewarding and I’m excited to continue contributing to the group’s success,” said June.

Vogue Academy is a safe space for the models to truly be themselves and express their spontaneous personalities.

“I’d like the students of West Georgia to know that The Vogue Academy is a warm, welcoming organization where everyone can feel comfortable being themselves,” said June.

“We’re a completely judgment-free zone, and

our focus is on growth. We’re all students working to break out of our shells and we’re here to support each other in that journey.”

Under June’s leadership, the Vogue Academy is planning a fashion show at UWG for spring 2025.

“We’re currently preparing for our annual fashion show, which takes place every spring, typically in April,” said June. “I’m really excited about that, as it’s always a major event for us. We also have some upcoming photo shoots for our models and general members, as well as other events that we’ll start promoting soon.

“The Vogue Academy has truly changed my life by introducing me to new opportunities and people I never would have encountered otherwise,” June continued. “Follow us on Instagram at @thevogueacademy.”

Homecoming Events

- Homecoming A Day Kickoff- Oct. 11
- Homecoming Day of Service- Oct. 11
- Banner Contest- Oct. 11-14
- Sidewalk Competition- Oct. 14 & 15
- Throwback Homecoming (Newnan)- Oct. 14
- Country Kickoff- Oct. 14
- Super Smash Bros Tournament- Oct. 14
- Flag Football Tournament- Oct. 15
- Wear Red Get Fed- Oct. 16
- Greek Grind- Oct. 16
- Rodeo Roundup Cookout (Newnan)- Oct. 17
- Howl of a Good Time- Oct. 17
- National Pan-Hellenic Council Stroll Off- Oct. 18
- Homecoming Tailgate- Oct. 19
- Homecoming Game and Coronation- Oct. 19

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Tongues of Fire Stays Loyal to Underground Atlanta

Emma Swales
Editor-In-Chief

For most musicians, their primary goals are to generate fame, make money and establish a name for themselves in the industry. These artists work to craft music that hits high on the charts and racks up millions of listens on streaming platforms. Many have been known to measure overall success with status, and creating music has seemed to become merely a stepping stone to getting a ticket to Hollywood.

For Atlanta native Lowell Hobbs, being a musician means something deeper. Hobbs sees music as a passion to pursue and not just a way to gain popularity, and success can mean leaving an impact on just one person. He followed his devotion to music and created Tongues of Fire, a post-punk, noise-rock band striving to create a heavy and hard-hitting sound that leaves an unforgettable influence on its audience.

In 2017, Hobbs traveled from his hometown to Asheville, N.C., where he met drummer Eli Raymer filling in for a local band. Raymer shared his passion for heavy hard-hitting music, and together they started crafting the backbone to what would soon become Tongues of Fire.

“In college, I started traveling and meeting people from the music scene and that’s when the band started to come together,” said Hobbs. “I found

a partner and began creating what I have always wanted to make.

“The name Tongues of Fire is actually from the Bible,” continued Hobbs. “I was in church with my mom and I heard the name and thought ‘That would be a tight-ass band name.’ I just kind of kept that in the back pocket of my mind for a while and now here we are. I am making heavy music with a heavy name.”

Hobbs and Raymer teamed up and released the band’s first self-titled EP in 2017. After noticing its audience grow, Tongues of Fire started working on releasing more songs and experimented with new ways to make music.

“I don’t think there is a right or wrong way to make music,” said Hobbs. “I used to work on Audacity and just use drum beats and keyboard to get the ideas out. Once I started to get more people on board, I started writing stuff out and sending it to the band to get their ideas.

“We jam on it for a while and eventually go into the studio with some rough ideas and figure out how to put together all of the pieces,” continued Hobbs. “The process became easier as we put out more music and it really helped shape our overall sound by working together as a team.”

After many albums, EPs, and singles

the band successfully established a niche sound and became a well-known name in Underground Atlanta. Hobbs shared that the band isn’t stopping anytime soon and good things are in the works. Tongues of Fire released its newest single, “Burn” earlier this year, and announced that more music and tour dates are on the way.

Hobbs explained that with the help of his band, Tongues of Fire developed a new genre that re-introduced the roots of hard rock and although fame began to peak on his horizon, he stayed humble and focused solely on bringing music to his loyal audience with local Atlanta performances and basement shows.

“I do like playing for smaller venues and younger people who still have enthusiasm for life,” said Hobbs. “We had a ton of house shows when we started and we still occasionally do them, even though we should just focus on touring. Those shows have the best audiences and people love to get wild.

“That’s when I feel the most accomplished,” continued Hobbs. “When I see people really loving the things I create and just living in that moment, it makes me feel like I really left an impact on some people. Even with touring and new labels, that is all I ever asked for. My niche, hardcore audience is all I need.”



Photo courtesy of Audrey Wash

Joker: Folie à Deux is the Chaotic Sequel for the Complex Villain

Breanna Tillie
News Editor

Suspense, questions of morality and obsession all tend to come together in the making of a well-done psychological thriller. Are the supposed villains of a story truly evil or are they simply misunderstood with having deeply rooted insecurities and heartbreaks that motivate their behavior? Can a person's despair descend so deeply into madness that they lose their ability to distinguish between right and wrong? Are monsters born with the blackness of their hearts or is this lack of empathy a coping mechanism that's been created by a lifetime of hurt?

"Joker: Folie à Deux," released on Oct. 4, invites viewers into the darker sides of the human psyche as this sequel explores Arthur Fleck being held accountable for his murders as "The Joker" while simultaneously falling in love.

This film dedicates much of its storytelling to developing the relationship between Arthur, played by Joaquin Phoenix, and Lee, played by Lady Gaga. The relationship between these two insane characters is chaotic and eventually reveals itself to be highly manipulative, yet intriguing. Arthur falls in love with the fact that Lee claims to

share in his struggle to survive in a society that has been unfair. This makes the toxicity of their bond, which appears obvious to the viewer, understandable for a character such as Arthur. This brilliantly displays the extent of his twisted reality. The chemistry between the two actors was electric and enjoyable to watch.

Lee's obsession with Arthur's Joker persona is disturbing and destructive, yet it was difficult not to celebrate Arthur finally getting a small taste of what he believes to be genuine love and care. This makes it all the more heartbreaking when he renounces his persona as Joker, which leads to Lee's abandonment of him.

Arthur, with all of his wounds, trauma and social awkwardness, was dismissed and spat on by the world. Joker, with his quick wit and charm, was accepted, which was the true desire of Arthur. The cost of being Joker meant that he must be a murderer. Being the murderous Joker was the price of admission into a world that otherwise rejected him. This allows viewers who enjoy the intellectual complexity of moral ambiguity to mull over the question of whether or not this villain can be

understood.

This film also contains many scenes in a courthouse, with Arthur being on trial for his murders. Here, we see that while Arthur's taking on of the Joker persona may be justified due to his trauma, his murders have created trauma for others as well. This offers a social commentary, or perhaps a mere opening for discussion among viewers, about how the trauma of one person can create a cycle of trauma for a number of other people if it is not examined with compassion.

However, the musical component of such a dark film appears to be random and unnecessary. There is a chance that this artistic choice was intentional to amplify the unease of the film, but it seems as if the directors did this to primarily take advantage of having a talented singer like Lady Gaga in the movie.

The ending to the film was also incredibly unsettling, though that may not be a drawback. It does, for those who ponder the ending deeply enough, explain the legacy of "The Joker" and how a murderous villain can be, in a twisted way, a source of inspiration.

Gracie Abrams Returns to Atlanta For a Sold Out Show on The Secret of Us Tour

Abbie Klein
Feature Editor

On Sept. 30, Gracie Abrams performed a sold out show at the Coca-Cola Roxy Theatre as a part of her The Secret of Us Tour. This was Abrams fourth headline tour and her third time in Atlanta as a headliner. Abrams' first time in Atlanta was in 2021 as a part of her I Miss You, I'm Sorry Tour. Since then she has released two albums, opened for multiple shows on Taylor Swift's The Eras Tour and been nominated for "Best New Artist" in the 2024 Grammys. Her rapid success has been reflective in the improvement of her performance quality on this tour.

This was my third time seeing Abrams. The first time I saw her was in 2023 at The Eastern as a part of her Good Riddance Tour and then again as an opener for The Eras Tour at the Mercedes-Benz Stadium. Both times I had a good experience and was already impressed with her ability to perform well in such different venues but The Secret of Us Tour has shown how much her confidence in her performance ability has grown.

I have always thought that Abrams' live vocals are incomparable to the recorded versions. She holds so much emotion in her voice that is so powerful when heard live. She often does note changes and holds certain notes differently than the recorded versions of her songs to show off her vocal range and the control she has. A lot of these changes became iconic parts of her shows and something fans look forward to hearing. The most popular change she does is in her song "I Know it Won't Work." Fans were such a fan of the emotion in the live version of the song that she released a new recording of the song, "I Know it Won't Work- Live," in 2023 on streaming platforms.

Abrams has expressed her love for intimate shows numerous times in the past because it gives her the ability to connect with the audience more easily. But because of her

expanding fanbase, it's difficult to continue to hold such small shows. The Coca-Cola Roxy holds over 3,500 people, which is double the crowd from her last headline show in Atlanta. Despite the growth, Abrams still tries to keep the shows intimate by interacting with as many people as possible. Whether that be by constantly waving to fans in all parts of the crowd or reading signs people bring, it's not rare for fans to share a moment with the singer at one of her shows.

One of the highlights of this show was the surprise song part of the set. Abrams has a long discography with two albums, two EPs and several singles that have been released in between. For this tour, she decided

to sing every song on her newest album The Secret of Us along with 8 other songs from previous works. Every night she sings a different song acoustically which gives fans the chance to hear their favorite song that may have not made it onto the setlist. I was lucky enough to hear her play my favorite song, "Difficult" which she has not played since her Good Riddance Tour. It was such a special moment for me and everyone in the audience.

I have always had a good time at a Gracie Abrams concert and this most recent show has only solidified that. I am looking forward to the next time Abrams comes to Atlanta and to see her continue to grow as an artist.



Photo: Abbie Klein, *The West Georgian*