



Gardening Club Grows Community and Student Involvement

Abbie Klein
Feature Editor

On the top of the hill behind West Commons there's a path hidden off of a gravel road that leads into what appears to be the woods outside of campus. However, if you were to follow the path you'd find yourself not in an eerie part of the forest, but in one of the hidden gems of UWG's campus, The Community Garden. The Community Garden is home to UWG's Gardening Club, a student organization that has been active for years, but somehow always flies under the radar.

"Gardening Club is awesome. We meet every Tuesday at the UWG Community Garden near the observatory," said Brae Mooney, a UWG student who is enjoying her second year in the organization. "It's really a club where we're able to be hands on, and have your voice heard with what you want to plant and what you want to see happen throughout the school year and semester."

Members of the Gardening Club are able to learn skills that will help them grow and care for specific vegetation and plant life they might be interested in. Recently they have been growing pumpkins to prepare for the fall season.

In addition to the benefit of having the food they grow available to take home, members also have the opportunity to be educated on ways to help the environment and give back to the community.

Mooney has been passionate about environmental work for years and encourages UWG students to get involved with the Gardening Club's

activities and take advantage of what they have to offer.

"I was Environmental Club President for a year and a half in high school," said Mooney. "I led recycling drives and we cleaned up multiple rivers around my high school, along with donating compost to local farmers."

The previous passion and experience she has continues to grow through the work UWG Gardening Club does within the community. The club works with other Carrollton environmental organizations like Keep Carrollton Beautiful, which works to pick up trash and plant flowers and other shrubbery around the community. They have also worked with the Wolves Don't Waste program on campus that works to fight food insecurity and wastage on campus.

Besides volunteer and community work, Gardening Club hosts numerous meetings and events throughout the semester for students interested in educating themselves on horticulture skills and club values.

"Last year we held an event in the fall where you were able to paint pumpkins, sit around the campfire, drink apple cider and just talk about club values while bonding with other club members," said Mooney. "We want to try to do a lot more events like that to get the campus involved."

The club is working hard to plan more events in the upcoming weeks for student involvement, especially with the holiday season approaching. Events planned by the club are open to all students, you don't have to be a member to have fun, but new members

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are always welcome. "Gardening club is always accepting new members. You can join through WolfConnect or get in touch through our Group Me," said Mooney. Interested members can also reach out through the Community Garden instagram page @uwggarden, or simply show up to a meeting. The club wants to continue to grow and leave their mark, or green thumbprint, on UWG and the Carrollton community.



Photo courtesy of Brae Mooney

Student Musicians Collective at UWG

Reese Griffin
Contributing Writer



Photo: Reese Griffin, *The West Georgian*

The Student Musicians' Collective (SMC) at the University of West Georgia is the place for talented musicians looking for a comforting and warm environment to share their musical talents and get out of their shell. The SMC originated from the ideas of Dalton Bloom, Carrollton musician and UWG senior.

After a lot of hard work and many

conversations with Brittany Beth Baxter and Jason Kesler, UWG professors who would become advisors for the SMC, Bloom launched the group's first meeting at UWG this March.

"I'm super passionate about music, and I want to find talent on campus and have students come to my club and be themselves," said Bloom.

Bloom hopes to impact others on campus and in the community before he graduates.

"One of my biggest goals is to have some kind of music festival," says Bloom.

"I want there to be more exposure in the music industry to help people get out of their shells," said Bloom, adding that the foundation of the SMC is beneficial for UWG students and area music fans alike.

SMC membership provides student musicians opportunities to showcase their talents without being judged. Bloom plans to create a big festival for everyone to enjoy and share a beautiful connection through music.

"If they take anything from this group, all I want them to take is that there is somewhere where they can go to express their creativity and share that with other people and enjoy themselves while they do it," said Bloom.

At present, the SMC does not have an assigned meeting space. The group usually meets twice a month on Mondays from 7-9 p.m. The group's next meeting is on Monday, October 21 at the Bonner Lecture Hall.

Students interested in joining the SMC should send a DM to the Student Musicians' Collective Instagram at @smc_uwg. The SMC invites all musicians—whether experienced or just starting—to come together, share their passion, and build a supportive community.

Organizations Partner Up to Provide Hurricane Relief for Impacted Communities

Courtney Bixby
Contributing Writer

Hurricane season for the United States runs from June 1 to Nov. 30 and many companies and organizations are working to provide relief after two of the largest hurricanes this season made landfall. Many nationwide organizations, including local businesses and nonprofits in Newnan, Ga., are stepping forward and offering support to victims and communities impacted by Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton.

Hurricane Helene made landfall in Florida on Sept. 27 as a category 4 and moved inland, passing through Atlanta and devastating lands in North Carolina with landslides, flooding and major debris. With many roads closed and houses flooded, families do not have access to medications, grocery stores and many are sleeping in community shelters.

After the destruction of Hurricane Helene, Hurricane Milton made landfall in Florida just one week later. The hurricane hit Florida as a category 3, triggering deadly tornadoes in the area and storm surges reaching eight feet. Its rapid migration to the east caused citywide evacuations and gridlocked traffic, while many other individuals decided to stay and prepare in the best way they could.

As the cleanup and rebuild begins,

families are without resources and there are multiple ways that other communities can help. Volunteering is one of the most beneficial ways to help and get involved during this time. There have been advertisements from humane societies and animal shelters across the southeast looking for foster homes to help with all the animals that got hurt or had to be relocated during the storm.

Organizations such as the Red Cross and local churches in the area are accepting donations to provide immediate care to individuals who do not have access to it. The Washington D.C. nonprofit, World Central Kitchen, is also supporting Florida by flying in food and water and is accepting donations here.

As for West Georgia, Newnan is coming together to raise awareness. Southcrest Church located in Newnan is accepting donations such as boots and sleeping gear. They also did a short mission trip to North Carolina to help those affected.

Macedonia Baptist Church in Newnan is accepting donations in the form of cash or gift cards. The Coweta County Sheriff's Office is asking for donations with the most urgent needs being diapers, baby formula, first aid supplies and shelf stable food.

The Salvation Army of Carrollton is looking for volunteers to help sift through donations. And many locations across Georgia are looking for blood donations, as there is currently a record low national blood shortage.

There are also many other ways for locals to get involved. United Way serves over 1,000 communities mobilizing resources when needed and is looking for volunteers with over 20 locations in Georgia. Save the Children is providing immediate care for children in the affected areas and is accepting donations and looking for volunteers.

For more information about way to help, please visit:

Project Hope

World Vision Hurricane Relief

All Hands and Hearts | Volunteer-Powered Disaster Relief

You Live Your Faith When You Bless the Poor - Operation Blessing (ob.org)

GlobalGiving:

donate to charity projects around the world

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The Heart of Fall Festival Returns to Carrollton

Emma Swales
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On Oct. 19, West Metro Board of Realtors (WMBOR) is hosting the 2nd annual Heart of Fall Festival at the Oak Mountain Pavilion in Carrollton to raise funds for local charities and bring the West Georgia community closer together.

The Heart of Fall Festival, hosted at 10 Mountain Oaks Dr., is free to attend and will have fun activities and opportunities for Carrollton community members of all ages. The fall-themed event will include games, live music, food and beverage trucks and local vendors. There will be free candy, chances to win prizes and Halloween themed gift baskets.

“We are going to have a few of our West Metro realtors set up a Trunk-or-Treat and supply some candy to go around for the kids,” said WMBOR

Special Projects Committee Chairman Nicole Perezcassar. “There will also be a fun costume contest that will be sponsored by Barnes Store. They are going to give three prizes for children and 1 prize for adult winners.

“Alongside the kids’ activities, we will have multiple local food vendors.” continued Perezcassar. “Loco Mex, Leopoldo’s Pizza, and Samba Loca are going to be attending, and all are providing beer tables to bring an Oktoberfest feel to the festival. There will also be multiple craft tables and booths for people to shop around as well.”

All of the proceeds, donations, and sales made from this event will go to three organizations in the West Georgia area. WMBOR wants to raise more money than last

year’s event and add more organizations that will benefit from community donations.

“Last year we did this festival for the first time but it was in August,” said Perezcassar. “We raised over 4,000 dollars for the Carroll County Child Advocacy Center. This year, we decided that we wanted to reach more people in need and make the festival bigger and better. We decided to go above and beyond and chose three charities to fund towards.”

This year’s Heart of Fall Festival will be raising funds for Carroll County Child Advocacy, My Turn Sports League, which is a baseball league for children with special needs and disabilities, and Operation Carrollton Christmas Child, which provides gifts



Photo courtesy of Westmoro Board of Realtors

for less fortunate children. All three of these are West Georgia-based organizations and WMBOR aims to support these local children in need by tripling the funds made from last year’s event.

“We want to continue the event every year on the same date,” said Perezcassar. “It’s just an awesome way to get the community together and have some prize opportunities and fun activities. It brings awareness to lots of organizations and businesses and

everyone benefits from it.”

For more information about the event, visit: wmbor---heart-of-fall-festival “I would tell every student to keep going, even when it’s hard,” said Martinez. “You’re going to be fine. Reach out to your classmates, your professors and your advisors when you’re feeling overwhelmed. They will help you get through it. We’ve got such a supportive team here.”

Arts and Entertainment

SCFM Hosts Successful Annual Media Night

Breanna Tillie
News Editor

The University of West Georgia School of Communication, Film and Media hosted its second annual Media Night on Oct. 3.

“Media Night is one of the most important nights for SCFM because this is where all of our donors come,” said Cindy Martinez, an ambassador for SCFM. “We host a big night for them with speakers, cocktails and a full course meal.”

Media Night allowed for networking opportunities and it gave the ambassadors a chance to see why the funds are necessary for the SCFM.

“The student speakers did a great job touching the hearts of the donors to encourage them to support SCFM. They encouraged the ambassadors as well,” said Martinez. “One speaker discussed how every student goes through the motions of graduating and getting butterflies when applying for jobs.

“This speaker said she applied for her first job in Atlanta, but things didn’t go quite as planned,” continued Martinez. “She was really spiritual and encouraged us to have faith that your destiny will work out for you, even if you don’t get it right the first time.”

Martinez became an ambassador for SCFM when the school was recruiting for more public relations students to join them.

“The previous year, nobody applied from the area of public relations. There were people from film and

journalism, but they were really wanting some PR students to do it,” said Martinez. “My professor pushed me to apply and I didn’t really think much about it, but then I was scheduled for an interview. Before long, I was a part of it and I’ve had so much fun.”

Martinez believes that being an ambassador for SCFM is a rewarding and fulfilling experience that has helped her really appreciate the SCFM at UWG.

“We do all kinds of events. It’s really cool to network with people who are already in the industry,” said Martinez. “I really love the SCFM culture and I’d love to see it grow because I really think the resources we have here are top-notch. Not all schools have the opportunity to actively engage in their work and access so many things free of charge.”

Martinez says the courses offered in the SCFM have allowed her to learn a great deal about her field and she feels they have prepared her well for the public relations industry.

“In PR Management, we made communications plans and presented our work in front of a live audience. Our professor even gave us oral feedback once we were done to let us know what we did well and how we can improve,” said Martinez. “In PR cases, we read about different PR disasters and the crises that happened if the companies did not have proper communications plans in place. I



Photo courtesy of UWG School of Communications

really learned a lot.”

As an ambassador for SCFM, Martinez cheers on all communications students to remain diligent in pursuing their degrees.

“I would tell every student to keep going, even when it’s hard,” said Martinez. “You’re going to be fine. Reach out to your classmates, your professors and your advisors when you’re feeling overwhelmed. They will help you get through it. We’ve got such a supportive team here.”