



UWG Prepares for 43rd Annual Media Day, Anticipates Valuable Networking Opportunity

Cindy Martinez
Copy Editor

As the University of West Georgia gears up for its 43rd Annual Media Day, excitement is building for what is expected to be another impactful and engaging event. This year’s Media Day, set to take place on March 5, is drawing attention not only because it will host informative sessions, but also because of its valuable networking opportunities that have been a highlight for many in the past.

Media Day last year was a standout success, with attendees walking away with new connections, partnerships and insights into an ever-evolving world of media and communications. The event served as a platform for students, faculty and industry professionals to network, exchange ideas and collaborate on future initiatives. Many participants emphasized how Media Day acted as a catalyst for new professional relationships, making it one of the most anticipated events for the School of Communication, Film and Media here at UWG.

In an era where networking plays a vital role in career development, Media Day has become a key event for students to gain exposure to industry leaders, potential employers and influencers in the media industry. Last year’s event was marked by several memorable moments, including talking to professional panels, table talks, keynote speakers and a social hour to network. The atmosphere was one of collaboration and shared learning, as both newcomers and seasoned professionals found opportunities to connect in meaningful ways.

Daisy Gonzales, a student attendee last year, recalls her networking experience with Media Day.

“I enjoyed Media Day last year because they introduced a new feature where we could speak with professionals, not just one on one but in small groups,” said Gonzales, “This



Photo Courtesy of School of Communication, Film, and Media

gave the day a completely different feel in the best way possible”.

The 43rd Annual Media Day promises to build on this momentum, with a packed agenda that includes keynote speakers, panel discussions, workshops and of course networking opportunities. UWG is known for fostering an inclusive and supportive environment, and Media Day continues to reflect this commitment by providing attendees with the tools and connections they need to succeed in their careers.

“It created a more relaxed, interactive atmosphere that helped ease the nerves and allowed for deeper conversations, “ said Gonzales. “It also allowed us to hear questions from peers that we might have otherwise missed”.

Whether you are a student eager to break into the media field or an industry veteran looking to stay connected with emerging talent, Media Day at UWG is an event not to be missed.

As anticipation builds, the university encourages both students and professionals to mark their calendars and prepare to engage in what is sure to be a day full of learning, inspiration and valuable connections.

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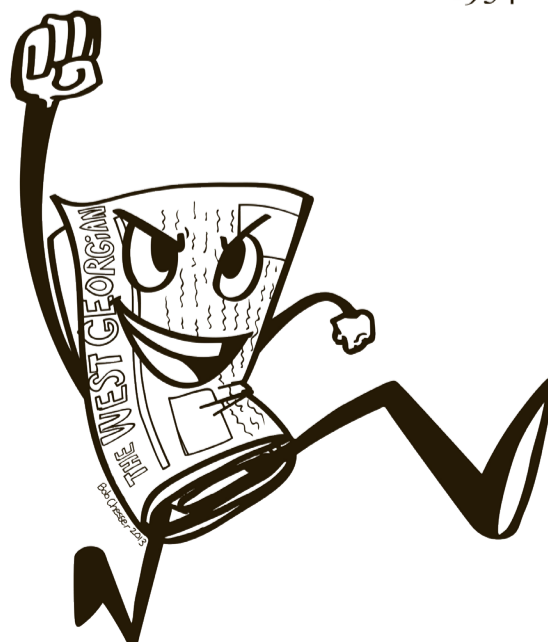
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Wolf Sports Network Offers Opportunities for Aspiring Sports Journalists at UWG

Phoenix Lindquist
Contributing Writer

UWG's WOLF Sports Network (WSN) offers a variety of sports-related programs every week. WSN's team regularly meets under the guidance of WSN Program Director, Richard Reed.

"When I was a senior in high school, I was able to tour the School of Communications, Film, and Media," said Reed. "They brought me to the sports radio station and I instantly knew this was home."

Reed has been a part of WOLF Sports Network for three years now and is living out his dreams of doing sports broadcasting.

Reed leads the WSN team's weekly meetings, making sure everyone is staying on track and setting high expectations for his crew to succeed in this industry.

At WSN studio, located on the top floor of Miller Hall, the WSN team produces three sports programs each week: Sports Pack, Triple Threat, and Sports Outta Pocket.

Sports Pack goes live every Monday and Thursday at 6pm, Triple Threat goes live every Friday



at 11pm, and Sports Outta Pocket goes live every Wednesday at 5pm, all streaming on YouTube.

The WSN also holds remotes once a week at the grassy triangle near Starbucks on campus. This weekly remote broadcast event is a good way to promote WOLF Sports Network and to recruit students who are interested in becoming sports journalists themselves.

"Being involved with WSN definitely keeps me involved with school activities, but mainly UWG

Photo by Phoenix Lundquist, *The West Georgian* athletics," said Reed. "Since we do a lot of sports coverage, it gives me the chance to give relevant information. It keeps me involved with all things West Georgia.

"WOLF Sports Network alumni groups and current are all great connections," Reed continued. "The work level here is sensational. And being here has allowed me to tap into a wide network filled with all kinds of ambitious people."

The Psychology Student Association Offers Opportunities for Fun and Networking for Aspiring Psychologists at UWG

Noah Prout
Contributing Writer

UWG's Psychology Student Association (PSA) is covering the vast study of psychology for the hard studying majors of psychology and those who are just mildly curious about the field. This semester, PSA President Kamia Howard is hoping to increase the enrollment in the organization and to spread knowledge about what psychologists do and how they do it.

"We're learning more about the field, the work study, just getting to the places we want to be," said Howard.

At the PSA's most recent meeting, Harris offered a more digestible way for participating students to learn about the various studies within the major.

"Our last meeting we had candy grams," said Howard. "I'd say that's a fun activity. We also had a psychology presentation explaining love languages and hate languages."

The PSA's meetings are not only informative. They're also fun. And they provide an inclusive space for aspiring psychologists to make friends with other students who will

someday be their colleagues in the field.

"Every meeting is joyful," said Howard. "We have fun. We have snacks. We get with people one on one and are always open to feedback to help people on campus learn more about psychology.

"In May, we have an event called De-Stress Fest," Howard continued. "We have a bunch of de-stress games, and it's open to everyone on campus to kind of cool off."

The De-Stress Fest will take place at the Campus Center Ballroom just before Finals week, a perfect activity to join in on after those tiring study sessions.

As a newly named PSA President, Howard is unifying with other outfits to do coordinated events, further spreading the word. At yesterday's meeting, PSA students interacted with members of the Sociology Student Association to discuss social situations in families and in the workplace.

The PSA meets every Thursday at 5:30 PM in Melson Hall. To learn more, reach out via Instagram at @uwg_psa.



Photo courtesy of UWG Psychology Student Association

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Table Talks Makes Its Return to the 43rd Annual Media Day

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News Editor



Photo courtesy of School of Communication, Media, and Film

Media Day is an annual tradition that has been able to connect students to future employers and professionals for decades. This year, the 43rd Annual Media Day will take place on Mar 5 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Campus Center Ballroom. This year features a talk from keynote speaker Teresa Whitaker, followed by Table Talks, a reception and Networking opportunities to close out the event.

Table Talks made its first appearance in last year's Media Day and was brought back after being such a massive hit. In this segment of Media Day students will have the chance to talk and ask questions with professionals. Students will cycle through the tables every 20 minutes, similar to a speed dating event, and speak with the tables during this time. This year there will be about 14 tables for students to interact with from all different parts of communications.

Arrianah Jones, a Public Relations major at UWG, shared her experience with Table Talks last year and the opportunities she gained from the event.

"There was a woman who, me and one other guy, decided to go to her table," said Jones. "It was the last circulation that they had for the day, and we were the only ones to see her the entire time and she gave us her

business cards."

Being able to speak directly to these professionals gives students the ability to establish real connections. These connections go further than asking a question in a panel or a simple introduction.

"I would've never got the chance to learn about her business and have the opportunity to contact her directly," said Jones.

The job market can seem overwhelming and intimidating but establishing these connections early can not only help when applying for jobs but it can also help with finding the exact jobs you want.

"For Mass Comm and PR you never realize all of the routes you can take," said Jones. "Discovering that the people you're talking to have done a lot more than just what they're currently doing and learning about the opportunities specifically in your field so you're not really confined to one specific thing can be really beneficial."

You never know who you're going to meet or what you're going to discover at an event like this and that's what makes Media Day so enticing. The ability to form connections and open opportunities for yourself empowers valuable components to success like curiosity,

talent and passion.

"Open your horizon for your opportunities and have networking opportunities," said Jones. "We have a very competitive market in terms of our field so understanding how you can be better equipped to go into your job market would be the biggest thing."

Table Talks is unlike any other network opportunity. For students who have never attended Media Day and don't know what to expect, come prepared with questions and a desire to learn.

"You learn a lot about what specifically employers are looking for, what can better prepare you and set you ahead of everyone else who is also competing for the job that you want," said Jones. "You learn what skill sets are high in demand right now and learn more about relationship building, your resume and what people are looking for."

Table Talks will run from 10:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m. There's a variety of topics and experts attending who will help answer questions and offer tips for success.

"Relationship building for sure can help you," said Jones. "In reality it's not what you know, it's who you know."

Connect and find Success at UWG's Premier Media Networking Event- Living West

Breanna Tillie
Editor-In-Chief

When breaking into a career field, it is often said that what a person knows is of equal importance to who a person knows. The building of professional relationships is believed to be essential to future growth and success. The University of West Georgia returns with its 43rd annual Media Day, offering inspiration and opportunity to students in the School of Communication, Film and Media as they collaborate with other industry professionals.

"Media Day is our premier event for students to network with media professionals," said Kelly Williams, chief organizer of Media Day. "It's a day dedicated to bringing people together for networking, including alumni as well as other industry partnerships."

Media Day will take place on March 3 at the Campus Center Ballroom,

kicking off with a speech by keynote speaker, Teresa Whitaker at 10:00 a.m. Following this will be the Table Talks portion of the event.

"The Table Talks are something we implemented just last year and they were well received. We had lots of different professionals and they each had a niche topic to discuss at their table," said Williams. "We allotted time where students could pick and choose which topic they attended and we did the rotations for them. It worked out really well."

"Students loved the Table Talks and really wanted more time at the table," continued Williams. "So this year, we've increased the time so students will spend 20 minutes at five different tables of their choice. We've also found that with them being in a small group setting, students tend to ask more questions."

After the Table Talks, students will migrate from the Campus Center Ballroom to the Campus Center atrium for a brief reception for socialization and refreshments.

"The reception is for our students and our professionals to have more of an informal networking session," said Williams. "While getting a cheesecake bite, a student may be in line next to the keynote speaker and can see what comes up in a conversation about it."

Subsequent to the reception, students will re-enter the Campus Center Ballroom where more industry professionals will have tables set up for all of the students to venture around and talk to the professionals about their experience with companies they are representing.

"One thing I really stress to is for people



Photocourtesy of UWG School of Communication, Film, and Media

to not limit themselves to their concentration," said Williams. "In this industry, people are constantly coming and going and moving around. That's what is so great about our degree."

Williams believes the students of SCFM will greatly benefit from Media Day.

"Things happen at Media Day. People find internships, jobs and mentors," said Williams. "If you go looking for something at Media Day, you will find something at Media Day."

Arts and Entertainment

Table Talks Makes Its Return to the 43rd Annual Media Day

Arrianah Jones
Contributing Writer

Captain America: Brave New World had the daunting task of following in the footsteps of some of Marvel's most iconic films.

The film hit theaters Feb. 14 and quickly sparked a wave of disappointment among audiences and critics. Most notably, it faced criticism for lacking the excitement and impact that made the previous Captain America movies so memorable. Receiving 49% on Rotten Tomatoes, many are left wondering if this film truly deserved this rating. After seeing the film, there are some critiques.

First, the overall plot lacks the tight focus and emotional depth that fans have come to expect from the Captain America films. There's a lot of disjointedness throughout, with the story feeling more like a patchwork of disconnected moments rather than a cohesive narrative. Let's dive into the specifics.

At the end of Avengers: End Game, we see Steve Rogers—the original Captain America, played by Chris Evans—passes his shield to Sam Willson, aka, the Falcon played by Anthony Mackie. The heartfelt scene foreshadows Brave New World, where we follow Wilson as he navigates his new role, struggles with identity, and grapples with comparison.

The film references Steve Rogers multiple times, which is a nice touch, especially considering he was the former Captain America. And while one can appreciate how they didn't disregard the entire storyline, to fully grasp the movie's plot, it is necessary to have watched the Disney+ series, The Falcon and the Winter Soldier.

Towards the end of the film, there's a heart-to-heart between Bucky Barnes, aka, the Winter Soldier, when Same begins to

doubt that he's fit for the job. In the previous Marvel films, Bucky and Sam weren't the "buddy-buddy" pair we see here.

While this relationship is crucial in Brave New World, the film assumes viewers have watched The Falcon and the Winter Soldier series to fully understand the depth of their dynamic. Unfortunately, this makes their friendship a bit inaccessible to those who haven't seen the series—and for some, like me, it may come as a bit of a shock.

Similarly, the relationship between Sam and President Thaddeus Ross, played by Harrison Ford, also relies heavily on the knowledge from the series. Ross, a former general in the U.S. military, shares a past with Sam before his inauguration; and without the series' context, viewers may feel somewhat detached from the nuances of their relationship and lost about where the two truly stand with one another.

Ultimately, there shouldn't be this big of a disconnect. You should be able to watch the film without any prior knowledge from the show and still follow the story.

While these fragmented relationships contribute to my overall opinion of Brave New World, my biggest critique is the script. The plot of the movie is arguably chaotic. It's almost like the writers attempted to tackle too many stories at one time.

There's an arms race for a new element called "adamantium". Upon the tension in the race there's a villain mind controlling individuals in the White House. As a part of his plan to do this he poisoned President Ross with pills infused with gamma rays, which turned him into a red version of the Hulk. They were clearly attempting to match the level of intensity the previous Marvel films have, but missed the mark.



Photo by Arrianah Jones,
The West Georgian

Additionally, when you take a step back and dissect the dialogue, it feels a little flat. Despite Sam's character being sarcastic, the humor at times feels forced. As a result, these moments—along with more emotional scenes—don't quite land the way I'm sure they were intended to.

All that to say, I question if Captain America: Brave New World deserves the rating it received. While the film still offers some entertaining moments, in the grand scheme of things, yes—it struggles to live up to its predecessors. The fragmented relationships, reliance on prior series knowledge, mediocre dialogue and scatter-brained script leave the film feeling a bit disconnected, lacking the depth Marvel fans have come to expect.

Though it explores new territory for Sam Wilson and delivers the action-packed sequences the MCU is known for, it ultimately falls short of the high bar set by the Captain America legacy.

Sutton's American Grill: Music by the People

Nolan Crane
Contributing Writer

On Rome Street of Adamson Square in Carrollton, Sutton's American Grill has been baking cakes and burgers since 2015. Its proximity to the square informs its appeal to those who go to the bars and restaurants on the square. Sutton's is known as one of the few family bars/restaurants in Carrollton.

The restaurant is situated at the front of the property next to a catered events room, where individuals can pay to rent the space for birthday parties or other events. At the back end of the property is a room with a stage and a light bar, with a Sutton's brand banner hung across the wall behind the stage.

It is on Wednesday and Thursday nights at 6:00 p.m that this family restaurant turns into a jumping spot for musicians from all over to come and plays.

Sutton's Open Mic Night started in the Summer of 2020 after local musician, Robert Powers, cut a deal with the management to bring in his own equipment for other people to be able to play through. As time went on, Powers found that he'd have to run the show two nights a week to keep up with demand.

"I do this for the love of music," said Powers. "To give people a place to share their music that they don't have a way to do otherwise. People respond to all kinds of music here. We've had Extreme Hard Rock down to Bluegrass and Country."

The open mic consists of an opening acoustic section at 6:00 p.m, with an electric set starting at 7:00. Powers splits these up this way so that people can play without feeling pressured, allowing for the acoustic guys to get their sets in without having to pressure them about an electric band playing after or before.

Through the window at the front, Sutton's may appear to be a bakery. Right next to the front register is a glass case with decorated cakes. This can raise the question of whether this is a bar or a bakery.

"I look at it as a little bit more of a music venue than a bar," said Sutton's Manager Cory Kelly. "We try to keep it family friendly, kids should be able to be here. But the bakery aspect is my sister Miranda, she bakes all these cakes.

"And the people you see playing back there? They'll be up here eating four or five times a week," continued Kelly. "You can always count on a diverse music selection, and they're pretty much universally supportive of each other."