



## UWG Students Result to Dumpster Diving For Free Books After Ingram Library Throws Out Hundreds of Resources To Make Space For Their Updated Catalog

News Editor  
Abbie Klein

After returning to the University of West Georgia campus from spring break, students were surprised to see a dumpster outside the Pafford Social Science Building filled to the brim with old library books. While it is not out of the ordinary for the library to make space for new books in its catalog, it was alarming for students to see hundreds of books that looked like they were being thrown away without notice.

Recently, the UWG library has been in the process of adding new books and resources to their shelves and has been deciding which books to throw away to make space for the new ones. Fortunately, UWG offers students access to thousands of digitized resources. The books that have been removed will still be accessible to students online. However, this could negatively affect students who have limited access to the internet or struggle with using online databases.

“I’m a hands-on learner,” said Braelynn Mooney, a UWG sophomore and Mass Communications major. “I’m horrible at reading stuff on a website, and that’s just my learning style. I’m better at reading the physical copy.”

The library has several resources to help students navigate some of the more complicated parts of databases like GALILEO that may seem overwhelming. Students also have access to computers in the library and the TLC, as well as multiple tech support resources across campus. With help, these databases can be navigated easily and students can quickly find what they need.

“As someone who has used physical books for most of my papers, I do think the website is easier [to navigate] because you can use keywords,” said Vena Thackston, a UWG sophomore

and history major. “Half the time when I look in the library I always have to have an employee to help me because the books aren’t where they’re supposed to be.

“Another thing that’s good with digitizing is you don’t have to wait to check out a book if someone else has it checked out,” continued Thackston.

A big concern among many UWG students about the number of books being thrown out is sustainability. Many students feel books could have been donated or that the library could have notified students to take books they are getting rid of instead of throwing them in a dumpster. Students and teachers on campus who prefer to have physical copies of resources have happily been scavenging through the dumpster for books they may want.

“Thinking about it from an environmentalist standpoint, so much of this paper could be recycled or donated instead of being dumped into a landfill,” said Mooney. “I got a book from 2014 about UGA’s Law School and I picked it up and thought, ‘Oh I like this, I’m gonna take this.’”

“Just give it a chance, even if it does end up in a landfill, at least try to give it one more life,” continued Mooney.

UWG has several student-run clubs that could really benefit from some of the books being thrown out due to the niche topics they cover, like philosophy, feminism, and law and politics.

“We have a book club here, and they’d probably be ecstatic to get [some of these books],” said Thackston. “They’re probably ransacking the most out of anybody and dumpster diving the hardest.”

A National Wildlife Federation report stated that at least 640,000 tons of books end up in landfills every year. With so many UWG students being a

### THIS WEEK:

Living West

PAGES 1-3

**UWG Students Result to Dumpster Diving For Free Books After Ingram Library Throws Out Hundreds of Resources To Make Space For Their Updated Catalog**

By Abbie Klein

**UWG’s Student Activities Council Hosts the Spring Festival of Colors, Celebrating Culture and Community**

By Arrianah Jones

**UWG Welcomes Alum Brian Nunez as Keynote Speaker for 41st Annual MAP Awards**

By Cindy Martinez

**UWG Students Attend Another Screening of the Horizons French Film Festival Showcasing Mars Express**

By Kailie Bridges

part of environmentally conscious clubs or classes, it makes sense why students have worries about this issue.

“I just don’t like the idea of throwing out books,” said Thackston. “I don’t see why we can’t make one of those little book homes where you take a book and leave one. I think that would be such a cute addition to campus.”

While the library continues to update its catalog, students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with online databases and seek help if needed. The library staff is always available to help students with research and answer questions. I encourage students to ask about books the library is getting rid of and look for something you may be interested in, you never know what you might find.



Photo: Abbie Klein,  
The West Georgian



Photo courtesy of Brae Mooney

## UWG's Student Activities Council Hosts the Spring Festival of Colors, Celebrating Culture and Community

Arrianah Jones  
Contributing Writer

UWG's Student Activities Council hosted a Spring Festival of Colors to celebrate Indian culture and community on March 12 at Love Valley from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. Attendees enjoyed a warm afternoon of paint throwing, delicious food and henna, bringing students together in a vibrant display of unity and joy, filled with music and conversation.

"I think it's important to celebrate different cultures," said Araya Upshaw, president of Student Activities. "And to let other students know they can be part of any culture."

Holi, also known as The Festival of Colors, is a holiday celebrated in Hindu culture meant to highlight new beginnings and ultimately celebrate the triumph of good over evil, connecting with Hinduism beliefs. Although it mainly takes place in India and Nepal, it's grown to be celebrated by many communities all over the world. States like New York, California, Florida and even Massachusetts will throw events featuring color throwing, Bollywood music and Indian cuisine.

"The samosas, and mango lassi we're serving today are really representative of Indian culture," said Upshaw.

A samosa is a deep-fried pastry filled with spices, potatoes, peas, or lentils, though it can have a variety of fillings. They're cooked into crispy, golden brown triangles filled with flavor and are meant to represent communion.

A mango lassi is a sweet dessert from Indian culture made with yogurt, mangos, milk, cinnamon, and honey. It's especially enjoyed during the warmer seasons as it's cold and refreshing. In addition to these foods, garlic naan, homemade chickpea hummus and pita chips were served.

Students also had the opportunity to have henna drawn on their hands. Henna is a plant that's been used for centuries due to its variety of purposes. The dye that originates from it is used on skin, hair and fabrics like wool, silk, cotton, linen and leather. It's naturally reddish-brown in color and lasts for several days after being applied.

Overall, the Spring Festival of Colors aimed to provide a vibrant and immersive experience for the students of UWG to learn about and celebrate Indian culture. From the paint throwing to traditional food and henna art, the event fostered a



Photo: Arrianah Jones,  
*The West Georgian*

sense of connection and appreciation across the campus community.

"It's important to show inclusion around campus, so everyone feels represented," said Upshaw.

By bringing people from all backgrounds together, the Student Activities Council highlighted the importance of cultural exchange and unity. Events like these continue to enrich UWG's campus and encourage students to embrace diversity by celebrating traditions that make each culture unique.

## UWG Welcomes Alum Brian Nunez as Keynote Speaker for 41st Annual MAP Awards

Cindy Martinez  
Feature Editor

The University of West Georgia hosted Brian Nunez as the keynote speaker of the Multicultural Achievement Awards (MAP Awards) on Wed, celebrating the academic achievement of more than 1,300 students online and on campus. The event honored students who maintained a GPA of 3.3 or higher, recognizing their academic dedication and success.

Nunez, a 2014 UWG graduate with a degree in political science, spoke about his journey as a student leader and his current work in advocacy. He is a senior policy associate at the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) and works at Georgia's State Capitol to fight for civil rights, voting rights and social justice.

"When I first stepped onto campus, I was filled with ambition but also uncertainty," said Nunez. "I wanted to make an impact but I didn't know how."

While at UWG, Nunez served as the Chief Justice

of the Student Government Association, President of the Latino Cultural Society and founding brother of Lambda Theta Phi Fraternity, the Delta Zeta Chapter. He credits these experiences with shaping him into the leader he is today.

"Each organization I joined, each responsibility I embraced, was a stepping stone in my journey," Nunez said. "I learned the importance of fairness, integrity and making good decisions for the greater good."

John Preston, UWG's provost, emphasized the importance of MAP awards in fostering student success. "The Multicultural Achievement Program is all about creating personal, unique experiences for every student," Preston said. "At West Georgia, we want to make sure you're not just learning from books, but you're building connections, gaining mentorship and preparing for a successful future."



Photo: Cindy Martinez,  
*The West Georgian*

"We have over 1,300 students who will receive this award, all with a minimum GPA of 3.3, many of you even higher," Preston said. "I did the math and together, your collective GPA is 4,290. You all are fantastic."

Nunez ended the ceremony by encouraging students to embrace their journeys and create change.

"If you want to see

change around you, you have to create it," he said. "You are the architects of your future."

With an inspiring message from Nunez and a celebration of student achievement, the MAP Awards highlighted UWG's commitment to fostering leadership, diversity and academic excellence.

THE  
WEST GEORGIAN  
EST. 1934

Breanna Tillie  
Editor-in-Chief

Abbie Klein  
News Editor

Cindy Martinez  
Feature Editor

Kailie Bridges  
Copy Editor

Kenady Graves  
Webmaster

Maria Mendes  
Social Media Manager

Brandon Dyer  
Graphic Designer

John Sewell, Ph.D.  
Advisor

## UWG Students Attend Another Screening of the Horizons French Film Festival Showcasing Mars Express

Kailie Bridges  
Contributing Writer

On March 26 many students gathered to watch the French animated film Mars Express hosted by the Horizons French Film Festival. The film was introduced by Dr. Jenna Harte, Assistant Professor of General Education.

Harte, the event coordinator, is also a first-year writing professor. Since 2016 her favorite part about her field is discussing Artificial Intelligence and the future. She also enjoys discussing persuasive writing. With a professor so passionate about the topics Mars Express explores, she began a fun discussion towards the end allowing everyone to talk about their favorite part. She encouraged students to express what confused them the most. Some students talked about their favorite character, while others raised more philosophical questions related to what was shown in the film.

The film followed the story of an AI future taking place on Mars. The private detective protagonists Aline Ruby and Carlos Rivera were set to track down a criminal, Roberta Williams, who has been releasing androids to freedom. Roberta manages to escape their grasp, until a new intriguing case is opened up by a worried father. His daughter, Jun, has gone missing. Because of Roberta's intelligence



Photo courtesy of UWG French Film Festival

in jailbreaking androids, Aline and Carlos find themselves needing to partner with her for the case.

As the plot unfolds, the trio discover Jun has been living in secret with an android replica of herself, both struggling to make enough money to survive while keeping her education funded. While Jun has subjected herself to having her memories wiped for cash, which the android Jun was working at a strip club, with a nearby building being a front for the brain farming scheme. Carlos, who joins them.

While trying to safely escort Jun out, officials discover her location along with the duo and quickly execute Jun before they could get far. This devastates Aline enough to break her sobriety streak. The motif

# THE West Georgian

Est. 1934

