



UWG Hosts All-Majors Career and Internship Fair Helping Students Network with Employers

Arrianah Jones
Contributing Writer

The University of West Georgia hosted its annual All-Majors Career and Internship Fair on March 12, from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. in the Campus Center Ballroom. The event was a great opportunity for students looking to network with top employers, explore career prospects, secure internships and discuss mentorship opportunities that could serve as a stepping stone to their future careers.

Tables were organized around the room, arranged with pamphlets, applications and business cards that created an inviting environment for students eager to connect with industry professionals. Employers from a variety of companies were present, eager to share insights, answer questions and provide guidance on job applications.

“I want to find an internship and connect with working professionals,” said MBA student Marvellous Onah. “Everybody needs experience.”

Students from all academic backgrounds attended the fair, recognizing the importance of gaining real-world exposure before graduation. From finance and marketing to healthcare and law enforcement, nearly every major was represented, ensuring students from all fields had access to valuable career connections.

Representatives from organizations like Southwire, Nicholas, Atlantic Coast Consulting, the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, the Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta, Buckle and the

Fulton County School District, were available to discuss career paths and internship opportunities.

“I want to work at a top firm—a consultant firm, or marketing agency,” said Onah. “There are a lot of those here, so I’m keeping my options open.”

Employers were more than willing to give details about their roles within the companies, and offered encouragement to students, as well as tips on what’s looked for in a job application. They emphasized skills like strong communication, organization and teachability—some advising students to tailor their resumes to each application, highlighting key accomplishments and skills that align with the role they are pursuing.

“Networking with business professionals allows you to learn about what path may be best for you,” said UWG Senior, Isabella Owens. “It also gives you insight on how people started off in their careers, so you know the best way to break in.”

Students had the opportunity to ask any questions they may have had, as well as discuss potential positions within companies. Many employers encouraged students to reach out to them personally if they needed help.

“While networking, you can ask if they’re willing to mentor you through one of the positions,” said Owens. “Whether that’s an internship, or just an assistant position.”

UWG’s Career and Internship Fair is

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an annual event that plays a vital role in connecting students to potential employers. With an increasing demand for work experience in today’s job market, opportunities like these provide students with a competitive edge as they prepare to start their professional careers.



Photo: Arrianah Jones, The West Georgian

Le Mépris and the Horizons UWG French Film Festival

Asa Nolan Crane
Contributing Writer

The Horizons film festival serves as one of West Georgia's premier opportunities to culture the students of UWG.

On March 5 at 6:00 PM, the International Languages and Cultures program, or ILC, held a subtitled showing of Jean-luc Godard's *Le Mépris* in the nursing building room 106, and was introduced to the audience by Dr. Allison Umminger, an English and film professor at UWG.

The film opens with playwright Paul Javal, played by Michel Pico, in bed with his wife Camille Javal, played by Brigitte Bardot. A sense of mistrust builds from Camille as Paul is offered to rewrite a script for a rendition of *The Odyssey*. As the movie goes on, a sense of contempt grows from Camille.

Le Mépris is not completely in French, as there is a director played by the real world German Director Fritz Lang, who speaks German and English throughout the film. Another titular character, American producer

Jeremiah Prokosh, played by Jack Palance, is limited to English only, and serves as the antagonist of the film. All dialogue between Paul, Lang and Prokosh are mediated by the polyglot film assistant Francesca Vanini, played by Giorgia Moll.

Besides the Horizons French Film Festival, ILC and members from other departments host a multitude of festivals, including the International Film Festival in the fall semester, and short film festivals that take place around Halloween and Valentines day.

"We are really conscious about the fact that this festival is an opportunity for our language students to see language in action," says French Professor Claire Ezekiel. "Language is an actual living and breathing thing."

There are two more films being shown by ILC this semester; *Mars Express* is set to be shown on March 26th from 6:00 to 8:00 PM, and *Orlando: My Political Biography* is set to be shown April 17th 6:00-



Photo courtesy of
Cinecta studios

8:00 PM. Both will be playing in the Nursing building room 106.

"It's to contextualize these films so that students are left with a better understanding of how interconnected the French world is," said French Professor Dr. Lisa Connell. "The French speaking world is not one thing."

The Literacy Crisis and Why Georgia's Children Are Struggling to Read

Breanna Tillie
Editor-In-Chief

According to Axios Atlanta News, only 39% of third-grade students were at or above proficient in English/Language Arts on the Georgia Milestones assessment in 2023. This statistic is alarming for educators, concerning for parents and discouraging for students as it speaks to the growing literacy crisis among children. The ability to read and write is necessary for communication skills, independence and academic success. However, the media continues to present evidence suggesting that currently, children are struggling to read at a far higher rate than earlier generations.

The University of West Georgia's Volunteer Ambassadors will host the Little One's & Literature event on March 27 from 3:15 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. This event is dedicated to promote reading and literacy among children in honor of National Reading Month.

"Being involved with the Volunteer Ambassadors has heavily influenced my desire to be a teacher," said Reginald Ponder, a member

of Volunteer Ambassadors pursuing a degree in Education with the desire to teach English. "We do a plethora of services and volunteer work both in and out of schools."

As an aspiring English teacher who has assisted in classrooms and worked with children, Ponder believes there are a number of reasons for the growing literacy crisis.

"It's extremely hard for me to fathom how many kids aren't learning phonics anymore," said Ponder. "What they're doing now is just vocabulary. Kids don't know how to break down and digest words to pronounce them correctly without phonics. They are just able to identify the word itself and what it looks like, however they can't pronounce it properly."

In addition to the lack of attention toward phonics, Ponder also states that social media plays a large role in students not being able to write properly. The slang used on social media will sometimes appear in academic writing, and students will see no problem with it.



Photo courtesy of Volunteer Ambassadors

"They are bringing the use of slang into the classroom and on their writing assignments," said Ponder. "'Gonna' is not a word and 'bc' is not how you spell 'because.' But a lot of times middle schoolers and younger children don't even catch themselves writing that."

Ponder states there are signs to watch out for that may indicate a student is struggling with reading.

"The children in the classroom often read out loud and some of them don't have any rhythm," said Ponder. "And sometimes they'll reach longer words and instead of sounding them out to figure out the

word, they'll pause and then skip over it altogether."

Ponder also states that some students are at a disadvantage regarding literacy because of socioeconomic factors beyond the control of both the teacher and the student.

"Underfunded schools often have crazy student to teacher class ratios," said Ponder. "The children with parents who work a lot may say their parents are too busy to come to the school and check up on them or pick them up from tutoring if the school has tutoring."

Ponder says he looks forward to starting his career in education and hopes to see change.

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Georgia Power Donates \$25,000 to UWG's Student-Run PR Firm, bluestone

Cindy Martinez
Feature Editor

On Feb 25, Georgia Power made a generous \$25,000 to the University of West Georgia's (UWG) student-run public relations firm, bluestone. This significant contribution comes as part of the company's ongoing commitment to support education, community development and growth for future PR and communication leaders and innovators.

Jacob Hawkins, Director of Communications at Georgia Power, a 2006 UWG Graduate with a degree in Mass Communications, presented the donation along with two other Georgia Power representatives VP of corporate communications Freddie Carmichael and communication specialist Matthew Kent. Hawkins, who will be celebrating his 20th year with Georgia Power at the end of this year, emphasized how meaningful it is to support the university which played a crucial role in his career development.

"When I came into the university here, honestly it was my backup school," said Hawkins. "What I found in Dr. Yates and in this university is care and connection and that there were people who wanted to help and make you feel more than a number. You get to make this education what you want it to be."

Hawkins also highlighted that, when it came to allocate the funds for Georgia Power's budget, UWG and bluestone were at the top of the list. The company's representatives expressed a strong commitment to giving back to the community, especially to an intuition that continues to foster talent and create opportunities from experiential learning labs like bluestone to develop in their fields.

The bluestone firm, which is entirely student-run, provides real-world experience to students majoring in public relations, communication and marketing. This donation will directly impact the firm's ability to continue offering hands-on learning opportunities, helping students gain valuable skills while assisting local clients with their marketing and public relation needs.

Dr. Hazel Cole, a co-founder of bluestone, emphasized on how this donation will help strengthen the firm's capabilities and provide student with even more opportunities to excel in the competitive world of public relations. With this support, bluestone will be able to expand its reach, take on more projects and offer more diverse learning experience for students.



Photo: Cindy Martinez,
The West Georgian

"I am one of the co-founders of bluestone," said Cole. "I want to begin by saying thank you all for being here today. It's a pleasure to have Georgia Power visit our lovely campus and support us with financial dollars. When Jacob called me back in December with the good news that Georgia Power wanted to give to our PR program and our school it was quite...shocking. He almost sent me into cardiac arrest."

The partnership between Georgia Power and UWG exemplifies the power of corporate support in shaping the next generation of communication professionals. With a long-standing history of collaboration between the two entities, this donation is a reflection of Georgia Power's dedication to education and its belief in the value of empowering young talent.

As bluestone continues to grow, both in size and reputation, the donation from Georgia Power will play a crucial role in shaping the future of the student-run PR firm. The impact of this contribution of \$25,000 but also being a premier sponsor for the 43rd annual media day will be felt not only by the students involved but also the community as they continue to engage with bluestone's services.

News

Community Left Seeking Answers In the Unsolved Murder of a Carroll County Couple

Abbie Klein
News Editor

It's been three weeks since The Carroll County Police Department discovered the deceased bodies of 41 year old Kristin Brock and 45 year old James Brock inside their home off of Tyus Carrollton Road. Since the discovery of the bodies on Feb 20 little information has been released and the case remains unsolved, leaving a community in mourning desperately seeking answers.

"Our investigators are actively following leads in the case and remain committed to pursuing justice for James and Kristin Brock," said The Communications Director of Carroll County Board of Commissioners, Ashley Hulsey.

The couple were found with apparent gun-shot wounds, and due to the absence of a weapon on scene, the police continued the investigation as a double homicide rather than a murder-suicide, despite rumors and theories from the community. Investigators have reviewed evidence and conducted multiple interviews with neighbors and other individuals that were connected to the couple but there has still yet to be a close to this case.

"While there have not been any major updates released in the past week, that does not mean progress isn't being made," said Hulsey. "Investigations like these require extensive time and dedication to review evidence already collected and analyze

additional evidence as it becomes available through search warrants and other means".

The neighborhood in which the Brocks lived was a very docile community and a crime on this level is obscure for the area. While there has yet to be another disturbance like this in the neighborhood, police advise citizens to stay weary while the case remains open.

"At this time, we ask the public to remain vigilant," said Hulsey. "Although the neighborhood where this incident occurred has historically been considered quiet and safe, we always encourage citizens to stay aware of their surroundings and report any suspicious activity.

"The safety of our community remains a top priority, and we are doing everything possible to ensure justice is served," continued Hulsey.

The couple were laid to rest on March 8, with a memorial from their loved ones who continue to mourn their loss. Both Kristin and James were active members of the Catalyst Church in Carrollton and many of its members have shared memories through social media and the internet highlighting the Brocks' kindness, and their shock at this tragedy.

The Brocks are survived by their family including three children, one shared daughter, and two from Kristin's previous marriage. As well as Kristen Brock's father,

Denni

Nolan, who is offering a reward of \$5,000 to anyone who has information that can help bring his daughter and son-in-law justice.

"Kristen Brock's father has privately offered [a reward] in hopes of encouraging anyone with information to come forward," said Hulsey. "This is not a reward coordinated through our office, but we appreciate any efforts that may help generate leads in this case."

Hope prevails in this community and through the Carroll County Police Department that the Brocks will be brought to justice and family and friends can receive the answers they need.

"We continue to urge anyone with information—no matter how small it may seem—to contact Investigator TJ Repetto at (770)-830-5916 or call 911," said Hulsey. "Any details could be critical in helping us move forward in this investigation."

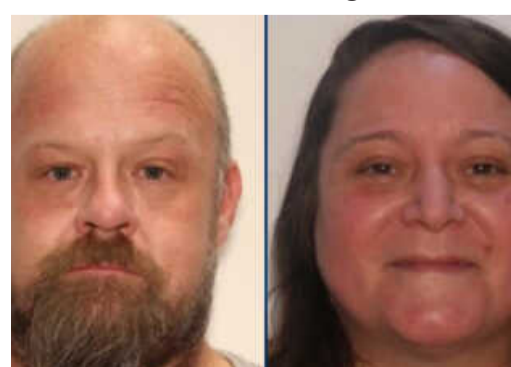


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