Overwhelming response for state’s only Integrative Health Conference

The Department of Psychology will host the Integrative Health Conference on May 26. The event is the first of its kind for the University and the only conference focused on integrative health in the state of Georgia.

Integrative health is a growing field that meshes traditional medicine with alternative forms of healing. The conference aims to recognize existing examples of integrative health in Georgia and facilitate leadership development.

“Integrative health is utilizing the available tools in healing in a mindful way,” said Dr. Yoon Hang John Kim, director for Georgia Integrative Medicine and program director for the department’s Integrative Health Studies Certification Program. “UWG is the content expert in this field.”

Kim will speak at the conference along with Dr. Kenneth Brigham, associate vice president and director of the Predictive Health Institute at Emory University; Dr. Tobin Hart, professor of Psychology at UWG; Dr. Christine Simmonds-Moore, assistant professor of Psychology at UWG; and Dr. Roberta Weintraut, program director of Family Medicine at Mercer University School of Medicine/Medical Center of Central Georgia.

Conference events include presentations on the state of integrative health and predictive health, along with panel discussions. “The conference is important because it addresses the unmet needs of the people,” Kim said. Conference organizers hope to reach health professionals, students and community members.

Overwhelming response for this first-of-its-kind conference led to registration closing in March. However, conference organizers are compiling a waitlist in case of cancellations. Requests, including name, email and phone number, can be sent to aschmit1@my.westga.edu.

Continuing education units for health professionals and event sponsorships are available. More information can be found on the Department of Psychology’s website and at www.IntegrativeHealthConference.org.
Meet the College of Social Sciences Dean’s Office

Dr. Amber Smallwood, Assistant Dean

The newest member of the College of Social Sciences Dean’s office joins the staff this summer. Dr. Amber Smallwood, assistant professor of Mass Communications will become assistant dean on July 1.

Smallwood joined the UWG faculty in 2008 and teaches primarily in the public relations sequence in the Department of Mass Communications. Though her degrees are from Indiana University (Ph.D.), Ohio University (M.A.) and the University of Texas (B.S.), she is a Georgia native.

“My mother and late father are both alumni of West Georgia. I went to the pre-K program here when I was little. I feel a real connection to this institution and community,” said Smallwood

Her professional background includes volunteer relations, community relations, and development in the nonprofit sector, including nearly a decade working and volunteering with public broadcasting stations.

College of Social Sciences asks the Community Relations Board...

Why are you passionate about the Carroll community?

Dr. Brad Lipham

“My family has lived here for several generations. My children and I have benefited from growing up in such a supportive local atmosphere.”

Ms. Jan Gibbs, Carroll County CASA

“I grew up here. I believe the West Georgia area’s best resource is its people.”

Ms. Amanda Camp, Carroll County CASA

“People here have a desire to give back to others less fortunate. Caring for our community is a priority for our businesses, churches and families.”

Chief Joel Richards, Carrollton Police Department

“The wonderful people that live, learn, work, and play here. Carrollton has a very generous and compassionate community that reaches out to everyone.”

Dr. Howard Seeman

“The community is so supportive and encouraging of people from disparate backgrounds who contribute to the area. This tapestry is unique and enriches the flavor and nature of the area for all.”

Giving to CoSS

Consider making a gift to the UWG College of Social Sciences.

Suggested levels of support:

$250
$500
$1,000

Please contact Erin Brannon, Administrative Manager, for more information.
678-839-5172 or ebrannon@westga.edu

*Gifts are tax-deductible to the extent provided by law.

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Mass Communications

WOLFStock highlights local music in annual concert series

The WOLF Internet Radio brought WOLFStock back to campus this April for a successful night of “Peace, Music, and The WOLF.” The annual concert event gives exposure to local artists and bands.

“It’s a way to connect students and the community with local artists,” says The WOLF’s founder and professor of Mass Communications Dr. Brad Yates.

Inspired by “Waylin’s pub,” a popular radio show that plays live, local and independent music every Wednesday at 9 p.m., WOLFStock brought several area bands including Come Down Denver and Reign to UWG’s Love Valley this year.

WOLFStock celebrates The WOLF Internet Radio’s April 2010 founding. Like the radio station, the evening concert showcases a variety of musical genres and is free to the community.

“We would like WOLFStock to eventually lead into a summer concert series,” says The WOLF’s General Manager Shawn Isaacs.

Corporate sponsors for WOLFStock have included Monster Energy Drinks, Vitamin Water, and Carrollton’s Creative Signs and Solutions.

Sociology

Diverse research on community issues presented by students

Graduate and undergraduate Sociology students presented research at several professional conferences this year. Research topics spanned important community issues such as spousal abuse, the recession, the reconstruction of New Orleans, and the grassroots Tea Party movement.

In addition to the range of research topics, the research methods employed by student presenters were also diverse. The curriculum of the Sociology department emphasizes multiple research methodologies.

“By investing time and effort into training and mentoring our students, we are preparing them to support the research needs of local government agencies, civic associations, non-profit and community-based organizations,” said Dr. Neema Noori, assistant professor and director of graduate studies.

When students master research skills they develop capacity to conduct research using a variety of social science methodologies—quantitative and qualitative. Knowledge of different research methods and advanced statistical analysis position students to better contribute to the community.

“By partnering our students with local institutions for internships, we hope to provide students with hands-on research training that will simultaneously serve the interests of the community,” said Noori.

Criminology

UWG/WGTC agreement allows students easier transition

UWG’s Department of Criminology and West Georgia Technical College acted on a call for more cooperation between the University System of Georgia and the Technical College System of Georgia. A new agreement between the schools makes it easier for WGTC students to continue their criminology education at UWG.

“One of the goals of the College is to really connect with our community and to connect with other educators in our community,” said Dr. N. Jane McCandless, dean of the College of Social Sciences at UWG.

Dr. David Jenks, chair of UWG’s Department of Criminology, and Louis Shepard, chair of the Criminal Justice program at WGTC, discussed common course content and came to an agreement where WGTC criminology students will receive full credit for five basic courses when transferring to UWG.

“The Department of Criminology is committed to reaching beyond campus borders to serve the community in a number of areas. We are very proud to begin the year with this agreement,” said Jenks.
Anthropology

Retiring professor reflects on history of regional archaeology

Dr. Karl Steinen, professor of Anthropology, gave the first College of Social Sciences “last lecture”—a new tradition where retiring professors reflect on their tenure.

Steinen joined the faculty in 1976 and continues the legacy of contributions that UWG archaeologists have made to the region. “The identity of a community is tied to its history and prehistory,” said Steinen.

In the 1970s, Dr. Lewis Larson, Jr., professor emeritus of Anthropology and Georgia’s first state archaeologist, joined the faculty. Larson was one of the primary archaeologists working with the Etowah Mounds site in Bartow County. Later, Larson and Dr. Ray Crook, professor emeritus of Anthropology, worked together on excavations of Sapelo Island off Georgia’s coast.

Steinen’s recent contributions focus on social and political organization in Southwest Georgia exploring symbolic meaning of the Kolomoki Mounds site near the Chattahoochee River and the Ft. Center site in Florida.

Community members interested in local archaeology can participate in the Larson Volunteer Program through the Department of Anthropology and Antonio J. Waring, Jr. Archaeological Laboratory.

Political Science & Planning

Registration drive helps register nearly 200 voters

Since the 1950s, the Department of Political Science and Planning has undertaken a voter registration drive to engage more citizens in the political process.

“It is an opportunity to get involved and do our part in helping our community,” said Brenda McCrary, departmental assistant and member of the League of Women Voters of Carrollton and Carroll County.

This year’s drive delivered nearly 200 voter registration applications to the Board of Elections office. Many of these are for first-time voters who now will have a voice in the political process.

Students and faculty alike are involved in volunteering for the drive—which has become an annual activity. Political Science’s honor society Pi Sigma Alpha and the Political Science Club work together to train for the drive and in turn train volunteers.

“Being part of the voter registration drive was a satisfying project for me. I am proud of our students who worked very hard to make the drive successful,” said McCrary.

Student volunteers work between classes to register area voters.