



# CORRELATIONS



College & Community Connecting

Fall Issue 2014

## Film and Video Production Program Hosts Atlanta Film Festival in Carrollton

The Atlanta Film Festival and filmmakers across the region are making more appearances in Carrollton, in part due to faculty and students in the Film and Video Production concentration in Mass Communications.

“There are no independent theaters in the Carrollton area and it’s really beneficial for all people, not just students, to see films outside of the mainstream. It brings awareness to independent production, it makes people more critical consumers of media, it’s more achievable than blockbuster films, and therefore inspirational and motivational,” said Deon Kay, assistant professor of Mass Communications lead for Film and Video Production.

In partnership with the Atlanta Film Festival, Kay plans to continue to screen independent films in Carrollton because, “These films are truly amazing, and they’re also unfortunately rare and difficult to see. What we’re trying to do is make the process easy, enjoyable, informative, and free for students and the community.”

In 2014, Mass Communications launched the Film and Video Production concentration—a series of courses that introduce technical and conceptual aspects of storytelling, including scriptwriting and character development, shooting, editing, film analysis and distribution, along with special topic offerings in documentary filmmaking, animation, and producing.

“What we do as a program is broad, and one of our strategic imperatives is to create and maintain connections with industry partners as we continue to grow in tandem with the film-industry in Georgia,” said Kay.

Kay and colleagues are already planning a Carrollton event to coincide with the 2015 Atlanta Film Festival in April. “We’re always working to bring films and filmmakers to town.”



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# Recipe for All-College Service Day 2014

In partnership with the Community Foundation of West Georgia

- 7 Wonderful Partner Community Organizations**
- 10 Impactful Service Projects**
- 151 Eager Students, Faculty and Staff**
- 2 Buses Shuttling Nonstop**
- 1 Beautiful Friday Morning**
- 484 Hours of Service**
- 100s of Smiles and Laughs**
- Innumerable Ripple Effects**



In partnership with the Community Foundation of West Georgia, the College of Social Sciences shuttled volunteers across Carrollton to work with community partners for our 2nd Annual Event for Impact: Serving Humanity and Doing Public Good.



“When we did our first All-College Service Day in 2013, students were asking us if they could go ahead and sign up for the next one! Our students, faculty and staff are committed to serving community, whether in Carroll or their home communities, and this event creates an opportunity to showcase the great organizations doing impactful work in Carrollton,” said Dr. Amber Smallwood, associate dean of the College of Social Sciences.

Volunteers recorded names on memorial bricks at the Carroll County Veterans Memorial Park, prepared hygiene kits at Manna House for families experiencing poverty, cleaned and prepped the area behind 415 Hope for Impact West Georgia’s new van to help transport men experiencing poverty or homelessness, chatted with seniors at the Carrollton Senior Center, prepared the ground for native fall plants with the Georgia Native Plant Society of West Georgia along Buffalo Creek, picked up trash along the Green Belt through campus, and sorted and reorganized recycled, reuse, low-cost art supplies at S.C.R.A.P. Bin.

“After volunteering with these groups, students are further inspired to get involved with their communities to make a positive impact. We are grateful to our community partners for giving the gift of inspiration, every day,” said Smallwood.



## 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](mailto:ebrannon@westga.edu)

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

## Community Relations Council

- Doyle Akins '62
- Vicki Anderson
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- Jan Gibbs
- Chad Houck '01 '03
- Kim Jones
- Sheriff Terry Langley
- Dr. Brad Lipham '91
- Timothy J. MacMillan
- Kisha Mitchell '04
- Trent North '91
- Chief Joel Richards
- Dr. Howard Seeman

## Newsletter Staff

- Dr. Amber Smallwood
- Meggie Miller

## Students raise funds for Circles of West Georgia

### Sociology

Dr. Jennifer Weber designed the senior capstone course for Sociology students as a service-learning opportunity to help one of the newest nonprofit organizations in the Carroll community—Circles of West Georgia. Students organized a basketball tournament that raised \$500 for Circles.

“Many of our students want to work in the nonprofit and social service fields; these fields rely primarily on either grant-writing or fundraising to make money. My goal was to give the students the experience of organizing and executing a fundraiser from the ground up,” said Weber.

Students began with a long list of possible beneficiaries, then narrowed the list based on the mission and causes of the organizations. They chose a local organization—Circles of West Georgia which focuses on inspiring and equipping families and communities to thrive and end poverty.

A check from the Sociology students was presented at Circles of West Georgia’s open house in November.

“They were very appreciative of the students’ gift. Also, they were very encouraging and understanding of the process of fundraising—the challenges, the successes, the ups and downs. The students were excited to be able to connect on that level,” said Weber.



## Visiting scholar from Qatar offers perspective on national security

### Political Science



Dr. El-Kheir Omer Suliman, visiting scholar in Political Science, gave the first public lecture of his appointment. The Center for Diversity and Inclusion and the Department of Political Science co-sponsored Suliman’s talk titled “Political Threats to National Security in Light of the Arab Spring.”

Suliman’s presentation focused on the areas of North Africa and the Middle East and examined the spread of extremist groups throughout the region.

During the discussion following the presentation, Suliman said he believes many extremist groups use religion as a veil; their true motivations are political, specifically resource-driven. He also noted that governments in these regions, whether existing or new, must find ways to allow the voices of their people to be heard or risk further threat by extremist groups.

Suliman is an associate professor Political Science at Kordofan University in Sudan and advisor for the Center for Strategic Studies in Qatar.

## Community participants needed for extra-sensory research project

### Psychology

The Bial Foundation is funding a research project led by Psychology’s Dr. Christine Simmonds-Moore and Dr. Don Rice to explore factors that may influence “unusual experiences” or sensations experienced in a laboratory setting. The research experiment aims to include both those who believe in paranormal phenomena and

those who do not.

“We are excited about this research project, and hope to find out more about factors influencing experiences which are unusual but not uncommon within the population” said Simmonds-Moore.

The research involves two

stages. An online survey determines who will be invited to participate in the laboratory experiment. The laboratory experiment involves three sessions in the lab—one without wearing a specially designed head device and two with the head device. Participants

in the lab experiment will be compensated for their time.

“We are hopeful that community members will be interested in our research and complete the survey online,” said Simmonds-Moore.

The online survey is open until mid-January at [www.surveymonkey.com/s/UWG-psychologystudy2014](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/UWG-psychologystudy2014)

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UWG-psychologystudy2014](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/UWG-psychologystudy2014)

## Student shares her journey from classroom to volunteer into career

### Criminology

Mckenzi Walker, Criminology graduate student, recently became the Prevention Educator for the West Georgia Rape Crisis Center. Walker has been involved with WGRCC for over four years.

“During my experience as a volunteer, not only was I

exposed to the work the WGRCC does, but I was also afforded the opportunity to work hands-on with the organization,” said Walker.

In her current role, Walker leads one-hour, multiple-day, and continual basis programming to reduce the occurrence of sexual

assault in the community. WGRCC also provides free and confidential services which include, a 24 hour hotline, medical accompaniments, crisis counseling, and criminal justice assistance.

“I remember sitting in my Violence Against Women class when I was a junior studying Criminology.

Every week I was more inspired than the last to do everything I could to work towards ending violence against women,” said Walker.

“I want people to know that there is hope and that there is an organization dedicated to helping those impacted by sexual assault.”

## Field school students unearth native artifacts, visit with Cherokee elders

### Anthropology

Anthropology students traveled to Cherokee, North Carolina to learn current archaeological field and laboratory methods, working side-by-side with members of the Cherokee community on research aimed at reconstructing prehistoric Cherokee life.

Dr. Benjamin Steere, assistant professor and field school instructor, secured grants from the Tribal Historic Preservation Office of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and a UWG Presidential Grant to

support the field school.

“Our students received hands-on training in archaeology and contributed to significant new archaeological research,” said Steere. “The discovery of a

possible prehistoric domestic structure, a burned pit feature, and a large, datable collection of ceramics from the poorly understood Late Woodland period.”

Students met leaders in

the Cherokee Tribal Historic Preservation Office, volunteers from the Cherokee community, Cherokee Beloved Man Jerry Wolfe—one of the EBCI’s most respected elders, teachers from the North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching, and middle-school students who volunteered for an afternoon.

“Our students benefited from interaction with our diverse visitors, and we gave something back to the local community,” said Steere.

