2009 MAP Awards

On March 25th 2009 the Multicultural Achievement Program held its 25th Academic Awards Ceremony in the Campus Ballroom honoring the scholastic excellence of minority students from UWG along with area minority high school students. UWG’S first ever M.A.P. coordinator, Dr. Jacqueline Michael opened the event as guest speaker and provided a historical perspective of the program. M.A.P. recognized nearly 400 minority UWG students and 19 local high school minority students with the Academic Achievement Award, the Academic Excellence Award, the Ace Award, and the Helena Harbridge Award. The Academic Achievement Award is given to the students having a GPA of 3.0 and higher. The Academic Excellence Award is given to the juniors and seniors who have a GPA 3.5 and higher. The Helena Harbridge International Student-Athlete Award was presented to the international student athlete with the best combination of athletic performance, classroom achievement and teamwork. The minority junior and senior who have the distinction of holding the highest GPA are awarded the Ace Award. This competitive award was given to senior David Wilkerson and two juniors with a 4.0, Brittany Reid and Daniel Soto Peinado. Mass Communications major, Brittany Reid, cites the annual ceremony itself as a key factor to her academic success, stating “the event provides students with a sense of their potential.”

First UWG MAP Coordinator Returns as Guest Speaker

UWG was honored to have its very own Dr. Jacqueline Michael return on March 25, 2009 as the keynote speaker for the Multicultural Achievement Program’s annual award ceremony. A native of Chicago, Illinois, Dr. Michael’s educational achievements include a B.A. in History from Knoxville College, a M.S. in Social work at Ohio State University, an additional M.S. in Public Administration at Tennessee State University, and a PhD in Higher Education from Georgia State. She joined the UWG community in 1987 as the assistant to the president for Minority Affairs where she coordinated the Black Achievement Program and the institutions Affirmative Action Program. Dr. Michael then served as director to UWG’s department of Human Resources and later became the director of Pre-College Programs for the Board of Regents where she collaborated with MAP coordinators at 33 universities. She provides her services to Grady Hospital’s Special Care Nursery, and to the Samaritan House and the Richard Allen Outreach Center which facilitate the needs of homeless men and women in transition. Dr. Michael also serves the community as a board member for the Intergenerational Resource Center, a program that provides adult day care to disabled senior citizens. Married to Dr. Price Michael, retired Dean of the College of Education at UWG, they have two sons, David and Steven Michael and are also the proud grandparents of three grandsons.
Dr. Lopez is a full time professor in the Economics department at UWG and has been affiliated with the university since 1990. He received a B.A. in Economics from the University of West Georgia, a M.A. in Economics from University of Georgia, and his PhD from Georgia State. Originally from Nicaragua, Dr. Lopez and his family immigrated to the United States permanently in 1985.

Dr. Lopez is a professor of Macro Economics and International Trade. His main goal is to “prepare students to make informed opinions on the economy.” He employs contemporary examples in his teaching approach, discussing different models of stimulus packages and the pros and cons of each. Forced to seek political asylum during the Nicaraguan revolution of 1979–1989, Dr. Lopez brings many insightful real-life experiences into the classroom as well. As an immigrant, Dr. Lopez hopes to provide his students with an international perspective that allows “them to appreciate what they have and to take nothing for granted.”

Dr. Lopez has a vast assortment of accomplishments that include recording two c.d.’s in Spanish, coaching his son’s baseball team, and being a national champion in free-style swimming in his home country. His motto pertains to the quote by John Keating’s of “carpe diem, seize the day, make your lives extraordinary.” The idea of never “leaving things you can accomplish today for tomorrow.”

California native Jadon Marianetti graduated from high school at seventeen and came to UWG in 2006 to pursue degrees in Political Science and Philosophy. As a member of the debate team, Jadon devotes twenty hours a week to research and preparing for upcoming meets. Last fall, he lead his team to victory at the University of Richmond debate tournament. Jadon recently completed an internship with the Long Way Home Organization where he tutored children.

His hobbies include a range of adventure sports including rock climbing, dirt biking, and wakeboarding. Not only a spectator but a participant in these adrenaline based activities, Jadon spent last summer dirt biking up a volcano in Guatemala. He spends his free time as a rock-wall instructor at the Campus Center. Jadon also has an affinity for travel and hopes to include this activity in his career as an international affairs attorney. Another of his hobbies involves reading great works of literature that speak to and affect social change, which explains his favorite literary genre - satire. The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn is Jadon’s favorite book of all time for the historical and social significance it carries in regards to race relations.

Jadon plans to graduate in the Fall 2009 and has his sights set on law school, but first plans to enroll in a joint International Master’s Program where he’ll receive a M.A. while also participating in the Peace Corps.

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