Faculty and staff donations to A DAY top $100,000 for first time

Academy and staff broke a record this week when they surpassed the $100,000 mark in their 2006 A DAY for West Georgia contributions.

Last year’s A DAY Faculty/Staff Drive raised $88,193.97 for the university. As of Tuesday, Sept. 19, this year’s drive had raised $102,064.42, an increase of 16 percent over 2005. More staff and faculty contributions are expected throughout the remainder of the A DAY campaign.

Audrey Baird, director of career services and chair of the 2006 Faculty/Staff Drive, said, “It has been an honor to be a A DAY chair for the faculty and staff. All I can say is a big wow. This funding will help so many. It is wonderful to be a part of the UWG team.”

Faculty/Staff Drive Co-chair Dr. Jon Anderson, associate dean of the Richards College of Business, said the donations show the high esteem in which faculty and staff hold the university and its students.

“This gift to the university and students is a demonstration of the generosity of faculty and staff at UWG,” he noted. “These dollars will pay dividends in students’ lives for years to come.”

The campaign on campus began in August and continued with an ice cream social and a cookout for faculty and staff donors, all sponsored by AirTran Airways. AirTran has also given four sets of airline tickets as prizes for A DAY drawing winners and the top team captain. The ticket winner at the cookout was Dr. Sandra Stone, acting vice president for academic affairs, and the winner at the ice cream social was Dr. Kerry Sebera, assistant professor of counseling. Two more sets of tickets are still to be awarded.

Another opportunity to contribute to A DAY will be the West Georgia National Bank Run for A DAY, to be held rain or shine on Thursday, Oct. 5. This is the sixth year that WGNB has sponsored the Run for A DAY. Participants can join in the 1 Mile Walk/Run at 5:45 p.m. and the 5k Run at 6:15 p.m. and the free Tot Trot will offer fun for 2- to 6-year-olds at 5:15 p.m. All events will begin and end near the UCC.

Preregistration, available online, guarantees free T-shirts to finishers in both races. For cost information or to register, visit www.westga.edu/~alumni or call x9-6582.

New project intended to help freshmen negotiate university interactions

West Georgia welcomed its freshman class this year with a schedule that includes a study in civility. The UWG Civility Project is an innovative approach to bringing a spirit of cooperation and understanding to students and the campus.

The project centers on the book Choosing Civility: The Twenty-five Rules of Considerate Conduct, written by P.M. Forni, professor and co-founder of the John Hopkins Civility Project at John Hopkins University. Incoming freshmen were given the text at orientation and asked to read it over the summer, and it will be used by teachers as a resource to emphasize the tenets of thoughtful behavior, communication skills, respect and decency.

How students present themselves, their interaction with others and the expectations they bring to their new environment are all helped through a better understanding of civility, said Dr. Jane Hill, chair of the Department of English and Philosophy and chair of the UWG Civility Project.

“From my perspective, the program allows both faculty and students to have clearer expectations of how we should negotiate the many complicated interchanges we have among ourselves each and every day,” said Hill. “By having incoming students exposed to a text that raises questions about how humans can most successfully participate in a community, we have automatically created first-year students more prepared for our environment than ever before.”

Forni wrote the book to gently persuade the average citizen that “good manners aren’t just good for others — they are good for us, too.” Messages and rules such as “think twice before asking for favors,” “refrain from idle complaints” and “respect one another’s space” head chapters filled with advice, wisdom and common sense.

Forni will visit UWG in March as a guest lecturer on civility. For more information on the UWG project and Choosing Civility, visit www.westga.edu/~bigbook.

Faculty members are incorporating the precepts of the text Choosing Civility: The Twenty-Five Rules of Considerate Conduct into their freshman curriculum in an innovative program to help students to succeed and feel more comfortable on campus.
**UWG Theatre opens season with *The Grapes of Wrath***

The West Georgia Theatre Company will open its 2006-07 season with an award-winning adaptation of John Steinbeck’s *The Grapes of Wrath* at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 4, at the TPCA.

The season-opener, which will run through Oct. 8, features a cast of 24 students and a live musical score that soulfully accompanies the Joad family as they travel to the promised land of California.

**Shelly Elman**, theatre program director, said the play by Frank Galati will wow the audience.

“This is the largest, most epic play we’ve produced in my 10 years at the university,” she said. “This play has everything — great Woody Guthrie-style folk music throughout, action — there are two stage fights and a square dance in this play — and tons of emotion. We’re all very fortunate to work on this play.”

Galati won two Tony Awards for his adaptation and direction of Steppenwolf’s production of *The Grapes of Wrath* on Broadway. Steinbeck’s original novel won the Pulitzer Prize in 1940 and the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1969.

The score, performed by musicians Joel Auble, Johnny Wright and Jimbo Wright on banjo, saw, jaw harp, fiddle and bass, gives a renewed resonance to the desperation of the Dust Bowl.

Tickets are free to students with UWG ID, $10 for adults, and two-for-one for faculty and staff. Parental discretion is advised for *The Grapes of Wrath*. For more information on the WGTC season, call x9-4704 or visit www.westga.edu/~theatre.

**Phil McDowell Scholarship assists five local students**

The Phil McDowell Scholarship has been awarded to five recipients for the 2006-07 academic year. The scholarship was established following the death of alumnus Phil McDowell in an automobile accident in 2005 to honor him and to assist deserving Carroll County area high school students with UWG educational expenses by his wife, Samantha McDowell, and other family members and friends.

An entrepreneur and owner of a construction and development company, Phil McDowell played a significant role in the formation of the Community Bank of West Georgia and served as chair of its Board of Directors. According to Samantha McDowell, he learned the value of hard work while working with his father in the construction industry as he grew up. He played football and golf for Central High School and lettered in both sports during his senior year.

“Phil was not the star player, but he loved being a part of the team,” noted his mother, Trudy McDowell. “Phil would have loved this scholarship endowment.”

The initial recipient of the scholarship must be a graduating senior from Central High School in Carroll County and must have participated in any junior or varsity program while at Central. As funds are available, other scholarships may be awarded to students from other high schools in Carroll County.
Swamy-Mruthinti listed in Leading Scientists of the World

Dr. Satyanarayana Swamy-Mruthinti, professor of biology, has been listed in the 2006 inaugural edition of Leading Scientists of the World magazine.

The magazine is published in Great Britain and is directed by the International Biographical Center Advisory Board. The board members select scientists who generate influence locally, nationally and worldwide through scholarly contributions in their field.

“It is a great honor to be the founding listee of the International Biographical Center for Scientists.”

Dr. Laurel Holland (sociology/criminology), Deandra Hunter (EXCEL Center) and Dr. Denise Overfield (foreign languages/literatures) completed a comprehensive 28-hour skill-building workshop on the principles of mediating campus disputes at the Consortium on Negotiation and Conflict Resolution’s Summer Institute on Conflict Resolution in Higher Education in July. Holland also presented “Where Faith and Race Meet: A Comparison of Religion and Environmental Concern” (with Drs. Scott Carter and Shannon Hovouuras, sociology/criminology) at the Society for the Study of Social Problems meeting in Montreal.

Dr. Shannon Hovouuras (sociology/criminology) presented “Femi-Nazis, Dykes and Bra-Burners: College Students’ Definitions of a Feminist” (with Dr. Scott Carter, sociology/criminology) at the American Sociological Association meeting in Montreal, and she presented “Two Campuses? Black and White Students’ Perceptions of Race Relations on a Diverse Campus” (with Carter) at the Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction meeting in Montreal.

Dr. Dr. Scott Carter (sociology/criminology) presented a paper titled “Marital Happiness by Sex and Race: A Second Look” (with Mamadi Corra, David Knox and Dr. Shannon Hovouuras, sociology/criminology) at the American Sociological Association meetings in Montreal.

Dr. John Fuller (sociology/criminology) has had his book chapter “The portrayal of extreme crime by the media: Reflecting or creating fear?” published recently in Serial Killers: Understanding Lust Murder.

Dr. Jonathan Goldstein’s (history) article “From Rabbi Kislev to Ehud Olmert: A Brief History of the Cultural Life of the Harbin Jews” was published in the July/August issue of the Bulletin of the Igud Yotzeri Sin (Tel Aviv), Vol. 52, No. 388. His chapter “Memory, Place, and Displacement in the Formation of Jewish Identity in Rangoon and Surabaya” will be published in Zakhor v’Makor: Place and Displacement in Jewish History and Memory, David Cesarani, Tony Kushner and Milton Shain, eds. (London: Valentine Mitchell, 2006), in cloth and paperback editions. The chapter will also appear as an article in the spring/summer issue of the journal Jewish Culture and History (London), Vol. 8, Nos. 1 and 2.

Dr. Daniel Helminiajik (psychology) presented a workshop on “Ethical Use of Meditation in Psychotherapy” at the annual meeting of the Licensed Professional Counselors Association of Georgia at Callaway Gardens on May 20.

Fulbright takes Snipes to Argentina for fall

Dr. Marjorie Snipes, associate professor of anthropology, has received a Fulbright Scholar grant and is spending the fall in Argentina lecturing to faculty at the Universidad Nacional de Jujuy on indigenous peoples and identity politics.

“There are many professors in the class,” said Snipes. “This offers me a tremendous opportunity to learn as well as to teach. What would most surprise our West Georgia students is that the university itself is a very strong political body. When one enters the courtyard of the Arts and Sciences College, it is filled with political tables or mesas politicas where students advocate social action and change. It is a very lively and rowdy environment with lots of discussion and argument. I admire much of the idealism that is alive and well here in the university.”

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Hill honored for work with first-year students

Dr. Jane Hill, chair of the Department of English and Philosophy, recently received the First-Year Student Advocate Award from the EXCEL Center for Academic Success. The award is given annually to a faculty member who provides exceptional support to freshman students.

Hill wrote the curriculum for the new UWG Civility Project (See New project/p1) and is credited with upgrading the Writing Center, creating the First-Year Writing Program and revising the English 1101 and 1102 freshman class curriculum.

“I am thrilled with the public recognition of all the hard work of the First-Year Writing faculty and the co-directors of that program,” said Hill. “The cooperation and leadership in our department made it possible. I especially want to mention Lucy Curzon, Greg Fraser [English] and Cheryl Rice [EXCEL Center] for their help on the Civility Project. Many, many others contribute to these activities every single day.”

KUDOS

Faculty and staff recognition

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West Georgia athletics teams face busy road schedule

Even without a Saturday football game, UWG athletics faces a busy weekend. The soccer, volleyball, men’s and women’s cross country, and women’s golf teams all will be in action.

The only home play for the Wolves this weekend will be in soccer. Coach Marisa Kovacs’ team will welcome Delta State to the Observatory Field on Friday, Sept. 22, and Alabama-Huntsville will furnish the opposition on Sunday. Both matches will begin at 4 p.m.

UWG’s other teams will be on the road. The volleyball team will play a Friday night GSC East match at West Alabama, and both cross country teams will run in a Saturday meet in Hoover, Ala. The women’s golf team will depart on Sunday for Pensacola, Fla., where play will begin Monday in the Bubba Watson Invitational Tournament.

The UWG football team will have an open date this Saturday. The Wolves dropped to 0-3 last weekend with a heartbreaking 29-21 overtime loss to Gulf South Conference rival Arkansas Tech. West Georgia will return to action next Saturday, Sept. 30, to take on Henderson State in Arkadelphia, Ark.

September

22 Friday
▷ Intramural Gulf Kayaking Trip, through 9/24
▷ Centennial Lecture Series: Perry Kirk & Dr. Jason Huett, Cashen Hall, 4 p.m.
▷ Reception at 3:30 p.m. See Bulletins/p2.
▷ Soccer: Wolves vs. Delta State, 4 p.m.
▷ Univ. Club Happy Hour, Alley Cat, 5-7 p.m.
24 Sunday
▷ Soccer: Wolves vs. Alabama-Huntsville, 4 p.m.
25 Monday
▷ CLEP Testing, through 9/28, Strozier, Rm. 121, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
▷ Deadline: Foreign Language Exam, Strozier, Rm. 114, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
▷ Univ. Club Lunch, Exec. Dining Rm., 11 a.m.-2 p.m. $4.50.
▷ Observatory open for stargazing, 9-10 p.m.
26 Tuesday
▷ EXCEL Success Seminar: Time Management Tips, UCC, Rm. 312, 4 p.m.
27 Wednesday
▷ Graduate Education Forum, Hubbard Dining Rm., noon
▷ French Conversation Group: La Pause Café, UCC Centre Café, 1 p.m.
▷ French Film Series: De battre mon cœur s’est arrêté, TLC, Rm. 1-303, 7 p.m.
28 Thursday
▷ Univ. Club Lunch, Exec. Dining Rm., 11 a.m.-2 p.m. $4.50.

October

2 Monday
▷ Intramural Flag Football playoffs, through 10/6
▷ Deadline: US/ GA History Exam, Strozier, Rm. 114, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
▷ Univ. Club Lunch, Exec. Dining Rm., 11 a.m.-2 p.m. $4.50.
3 Tuesday
▷ Deadline: GA Constitution Exam, Strozier, Rm. 114, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
▷ Volleyball: Wolves vs. West Florida, 6 p.m.
4 Wednesday
▷ Graduate Foreign Language Exam, Strozier, Rm. 120, 9 a.m. & 2 p.m.
▷ French Conversation Group: La Pause Café, UCC Centre Café, 1 p.m.
▷ US/ GA History Exams, Strozier, Rm. 120, 3-4:30 p.m.
▷ EXCEL Success Seminar: Critical Thinking Skills, UCC, Rm. 312, 4 p.m.
▷ UWG Theatre: The Grapes of Wrath, through 10/7, TCPA, 7:30 p.m. Also 10/8 at 2:30 p.m. Tickets: $10, general admission; two-for-one, faculty & staff; free for UWG students. See UWG Theatre/p2.
5 Thursday
▷ Registration/Deadline for Intramural Soccer & Paintball, through 10/18
▷ Univ. Club Lunch, Exec. Dining Rm., 11 a.m.-2 p.m. $4.50.
▷ GA Constitution Exam, Strozier, Rm. 120, 3-4:30 p.m.
▷ WGBN Run for A DAY, UCC. See Faculty and staff/p1.