UWG Forms RISE Program to Aid Small Businesses

The University of West Georgia, along with the Carroll County Economic Development Foundation and the UWG Small Business Development Center, is creating the Resource for Innovation, Small Business and Entrepreneurship (RISE) Program.

The RISE program will create an online “incubator village” to assist entrepreneurs in Carroll, Coweta, Douglas, Haralson, Heard and Polk counties. The goal of the program is to offer counseling, resource information exchange, distance learning opportunities and other information for local business owners on the program’s website.

A celebration of the official announcement of the RISE program took place at the Entrepreneur Excellence Banquet on Sept. 13, 2010 on the UWG campus. The banquet featured a panel discussion with Allen Nance, founder and president of the Mansell Group; W. Cliff Oxford, founder and CEO of Entrepreneur Advisors; Christa Pitts, COO of Creatively Classic Activities and Books, and Bob Stone, founder and chairman of Systems & Methods Inc.

RISE will host two additional small business forums throughout 2011, as well as provide online training. An estimated 2,500 small businesses in the West Georgia region will benefit from the RISE program’s virtual village. For additional information call 678-839-5031.

Visionary Circle of Giving
Lifetime contributions to the Visionary Endowment
• Dean’s Circle $50,000+

Annual contributions (calendar year)
• Board of Directors Club ……………………$25,000+
• CEOs Club…………………………….$10,000 to $24,999
• Executives Club……………………….$5,000 to $9,999
• Managers Club ………………………….$1,000 to $4,999
• Investors Club ………………………….$500 to $999

Visionary Circle of Giving benefits:
• Honor roll on Richards College of Business website
• Invitation to receptions, dinners and events hosted by the Richards College of Business
• Invitation to annual Visionary Circle of Giving luncheon for Executives Club and above
• Dean’s Circle members will be recognized on a plaque displayed in the Adamson Hall Cadenhead Lobby

Rise Review
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• Cans for a Cause
U.S. Chamber of Commerce’s Chief Economist Speaks at UWG Annual Economic Forecast Breakfast

The Department of Economics of the Richards College of Business and the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce hosted the 2010 UWG Economic Forecast Breakfast on October 26, at the Campus Center Ballroom UWG Campus. The breakfast featured Dr. Martin A. Regalia, Chief Economist at the United States Chamber of Commerce and Dr. William “Joey” Smith, Associate Professor of Economics, UWG.

Regalia gave an overview of the current economic climate and Smith discussed the economic opportunities and challenges for the year ahead.

Key points stressed by Martin Regalia:
• Current growth rate is about 3 percent, which compares with a 7.7 percent after the double dip recession in 1982
• Housing and job markets are the two weakest segments of the economy
• Recent government and industrial efforts to slow or stop foreclosures is good for homeowners having trouble paying mortgages, but it’s damaging to the economy because it delays the process of getting the houses back on the market and purchased by buyers who can get financing
• Consumption is 70 percent of the economy but industry and consumers are not spending money

Regalia finished his presentation by saying “there’s a great degree of uncertainty out there and that’s what’s paralyzing the economy.”

Executive in Residence – George Brooks

On September 30, George Brooks spent the day with faculty and students in the Richards College of Business discussing the career opportunities and business strategies of UPS. George serves as president of UPS’s Central Region and received his bachelor’s degree from the University of West Georgia in 1984. George began his UPS career as a part-time package handler in Carrollton, Georgia in 1983. Now, George is responsible for UPS service in all operations throughout 18 states. The Central Region, which includes 6 district business units, includes approximately 90,000 UPS employees and produced $11.2 billion in revenue in 2009.

George was recognized in 2009 as a Beta Gamma Sigma Honoree in the Richards College of Business at the University of West Georgia.

The RCOB sponsors the Executive in Residence for business leaders and UWG students to exchange ideas and experiences through lectures, classes and informal gatherings.
Harris Joins Richards College Board of Visitors

John Harris, former President and CEO of Telecare Global Solutions, recently joined the University of West Georgia’s Richards College Board of Visitors.

The Board of Visitors consists of representatives from the business community who serve as an advisory group for the Richards College of Business. Their meetings, during the spring and fall semesters, focus on issues such as strategic planning, school to work transition, and integrating business practice in the classroom.

In 1971, Harris received his BBA from the University of West Georgia and in 1973 received his MBA from UWG.

Harris “brings a wealth of worldwide business experience at the CEO level to the Richards College of Business Board of Visitors,” said Faye McIntyre, Dean and Sewell Chair of Private Enterprise.

“His counsel on strategies to advance the Richards College in the local, regional, and national business communities and affiliations to expand learning opportunities for students and faculty will greatly assist in the fulfillment of our mission to educate and prepare students for positions of responsibility in business and society,” McIntyre went on to say.

Harris has more than 30 years of experience in the outsourced business services and information technology industry, with senior executive roles spanning sales, marketing, strategy, business operations and mergers/acquisitions, as well as extensive international experience in Europe, the Middle East and Asia. Harris has been CEO of several private equity backed technology service companies.

Harris has held board positions with a number of public and private telecommunications and technology services companies. He has been a long-term member of Young Presidents’ Organization and World Presidents’ Organization. He resides in Scottsdale, Arizona.

John Allison, Opened the BB&T Lectures in Free Enterprise Series

John Allison, former CEO of BB&T Corp., was the inaugural guest speaker at the BB&T Lectures in Free Enterprise Series, a program established by BB&T and the University of West Georgia’s Richards College of Business.

“We do not live in a free market in the United States, we live in a mixed economy,” Allison told an audience of over 600 students, faculty and members of the community during a presentation at the UWG Coliseum on September 28, 2011. Allison filled his remarks with numerous anecdotes from his experiences in banking and noted that the opinions were all his own and not those of UWG or the Richards College of Business.

A donation by BB&T, the largest in the history of the Richards College, helped create the lecture series and the Center for Ethics and Free Enterprise, which fosters a comprehensive and ongoing discussion of the foundations of capitalism and free enterprise.

“BB&T has been and continues to be a wonderful benefactor and friend to the university,” said Dr. Beheruz N. Sethna, president of UWG.
Richards College of Business Honored Again

The University of West Georgia’s Richards College of Business is recognized as an outstanding business school by The Princeton Review. The education services company features the school in the new 2011 edition of its book, “The Best 300 Business Schools.”

According to Robert Franek, Princeton Review senior vice president-publishing, “We are pleased to recommend UWG’s Richards College of Business to readers of our book and users of our site, www.PrincetonReview.com, as one of the best institutions they could attend to earn an MBA. We chose the 300 business schools in this book based on our high opinion of their academic programs and offerings, as well as our review of institutional data we collect from the schools. We also strongly consider the candid opinions of students attending the schools who rate and report on their campus experiences at their schools on our survey for the book.”

“I am delighted to hear that the Richards College of Business has again been recognized as being among the Princeton Review’s 300 Best Business Schools,” said UWG President Beheruz N. Sethna. “This recognition is well deserved given the exceptional faculty, students, staff, programs and leadership in the college.”

“The Best 300 Business Schools: 2011 Edition” has two-page profiles of the schools with write-ups on their academics, student life, and admissions, plus ratings for their academics, selectivity, and career placement services. In the profile on the Richards College, the Princeton Review editors describe the school as having students who: “are a friendly and close-knit bunch.” In a “Survey Says . . . “ sidebar in the profile, The Princeton Review lists topics that RCOB students it surveyed were in most agreement about. The list includes: “Students love Carrollton, happy students, smart classrooms, and solid preparation in general management.” The Princeton Review’s 80-question survey for the book asked students about themselves, their career plans, and their school’s academics, student body and campus life.

The Princeton Review does not rank the business schools in the book on a single hierarchical list from 1 to 300, or name one business school best overall.

“The Best 300 Business Schools: 2011 Edition” also has advice on applying to business schools and funding the degree.

Cans for a Cause

The Dean’s Council of Student Leaders November 2010 project, “Cans for a Cause,” donated 4,048 food items to the Carroll County Soup Kitchen. Also, the 1st place winners donated their winning to the Soup Kitchen. The contest winners were: 1st Place, Accounting Club and Finance Club ($200), 2nd Place, Marketing Club ($100), and 3rd Place, Management Club ($50).

Cans for a Cause Winners

Richards College of Business Events: Fall 2011

- Student Ice Cream Social - August 30, 2011
- Homecoming Game: UWG vs. Henderson State - October 1, 2011
- Economic Forecast Breakfast - November 1, 2011 UWG Campus Center Ballroom

For reservations or additional details on these events contact the Richards College of Business Dean’s Office at 678-839-6467.

Join our social communities and keep up with the latest news and events.

Become a fan on Facebook: www.facebook.com and search for the Richards College of Business.

Network with other graduates on LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com and join the Richards College of Business group.

UWG & You Alumni Receptions

- April 28, 2011: 6:30pm; Home of Rodney Ownbey, 711 Mount Sinai Rd., Dalton, GA
- May 16, 2011: 6:30pm; Dallas, TX
- May 19, 2011: 6:30pm; Library Ballroom; 652 Mulberry St., Macon, GA

Contact dduffey@westga.edu to register or for more information.