Points of Pride

At the University of West Georgia, we are in the business of transforming lives and we are focused on success. With so many advancements at UWG, our campus is constantly brimming with excitement. Through the Points of Pride we celebrate these achievements and examine our success through the four major Strategic Imperatives of our Strategic Plan – Student Success, Academic Success, Partnership Success and Operational Success. Congratulations to all those who have strived for excellence and have achieved it.

August 2016

Student Success

Suraj Sood, doctoral student in psychology, presented his paper, “Global existential topics for the 21st century: Psychology and ethical being,” at the midwinter meeting of the Theoretical and Philosophical Division of the American Psychological Association.

More than 65 UWG student volunteers served eight community projects and organizations for the 4th Annual All College Service Day, hosted by UWG’s College of Social Sciences and the Community Foundation of West Georgia.

Thanks to a $61,000 grant from the National Park Service, two University of West Georgia Public History program students have an opportunity to work for the South Florida Collections Management Center (SFCMC) in the Everglades National Park this fall.

Academic Success

The Licensed Professional Counselors Association of Georgia LPCA recently announced the creation of the Linda Painter Service Award in honor of UWG Professor Emerita Dr. Linda Painter, LPC, CPCS. Dr. Painter passed away on Dec. 28, 2014. This award is given to a deserving member of the organization at the LPCA Annual Convention in her honor.
Jean Cook, assistant professor in Ingram Library’s Instructional Services department, received the 2016 McJenkin-Rheay Award from the Georgia Library Association. The award recognizes a librarian early in his or her career who has made outstanding contributions to the Georgia Library Association and to leadership as exemplified by the careers of Virginia McJenkin and Mary Louise Rheay.

Associate Professor of History Dr. Dan Williams published an opinion piece in the New York Times in August titled, “Why Values Voters Value Donald Trump.” Dr. Williams’s research focuses on the intersection between politics and religion in modern America.

Head of Special Collections in Ingram Library Blynne Olivieri was one of 17 top library leaders selected from around the world to participate in the UCLA Senior Fellows program. Established in 1982 by UCLA’s Graduate School of Education & Information Studies, the program is an intensive three-week residential experience focused on management, strategic thinking, and practical and theoretical approaches to the issues confronting academic institutions and their libraries.

**Partnership Success**

Alumnus David Johnson, co-founder of St. Croix-based company Cane Bay Partners, VI, LLLP, recently made a substantial donation to the Richards College of Business. The donation will be used towards a new state-of-the-art building for RCOB.

Assistant Professor in the College of Education Dr. Melissa Johnston has been appointed as co-editor of the American Association of School Librarians’ (AASL) peer-reviewed, online journal School Library Research.

University of West Georgia’s Ingram Library has been selected as the new home for the papers of U.S. Representative Lynn Westmoreland. The items that will be preserved at Ingram Library will showcase Rep. Westmoreland’s service in the U.S. House of Representatives, the Georgia State House, and as vice chairman of the National Republican Congressional Committee.

UWG English Professors Dr. Angela Insenga and Dr. Rebecca Harrison recently completed a study on the effects of Inquiry Based Learning in elementary, middle and high school settings in partnership with local K-12 teachers. The study will be included in a textbook distributed by Rowan & Littlefield.
Operational Success

**UWG** expects to have another year of record enrollment after preliminary estimates show 13,400 students. The increase is 4 percent higher than last year’s enrollment, marking the seventh consecutive year the university has seen record enrollment.

**UWG Newnan** experienced a 6.6 percent rise in enrollment, bringing the total to 772 students in fall 2016. Newnan’s dual enrollment program also saw a boost, enrolling 136 new students this fall.

**UWG** has hired 33 new faculty and staff positions for the 2017 fiscal year. In just three years, UWG has funded 80 positions.

**UWG** was ranked by zippia.com as one of the top 10 universities in the state for economics majors.

Share your own story and tell us your own Point of Pride. For more information visit [www.westga.edu/ucm/1792.php](http://www.westga.edu/ucm/1792.php).