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.

Student Success

Alumnus R. Cary Bynum ('58) is the author of seven published books and eighteen produced plays in a number of U.S. cities and universities. His last book, "Night Streetcars: City Poems and Beyond," (St. Johann Press, NJ) was published in Summer 2016.

Chris Fried, Ed.D. student in school improvement in the College of Education, has been awarded a Mellon Faculty Career Enhancement Fellowship by the American Indian College Fund. Chris is an instructor in the department of Teacher Education at Sitting Bull College on the Standing Rock Indian Reservation in Fort Yates, N.D.

Jan Wilson, Ed.S., media specialist at Brookwood High School, has been awarded the 2017 Hero of Collaboration award from the School Library Journal. The award honors a K–12 library professional for outstanding achievement and the exemplary use of 21st-century tools and services to engage children and teens toward fostering multiple literacies.
Dr. Faye McIntyre, dean and Sewell Chair of Private Enterprise, Dr. Jon Anderson, professor, Mary Kassis, professor and Dr. Brad Prince, associate dean, all in the Richards College of Business, published the article “University and Business Accreditation Processes: Building on Commonalities” in the Journal of Higher Education Theory and Practice.

Dr. Martin McPhail, assistant professor of chemistry, received a $55,000 grant from the American Chemical Society Petroleum Research Fund. His research aims to understand mechanisms of charge transport in lead sulfide quantum dot arrays in order to use solar energy to convert crude petroleum naphtha into fuel and synthetic feedstocks.

Dr. Lisa Gezon, professor and chair of anthropology, and co-PI, Dr. Susan Paulson from the University of Florida, received a $20,000 grant to assist with putting on a workshop entitled “Degrowth, buen vivir, and other paths toward human-environment well-being.” It will be hosted by the University of Florida’s Center for Latin American Studies, renowned for richness and breadth of interdisciplinary and cross-cultural study, in conjunction with UF’s vigorous research and training program in tropical conservation and development.

Dr. Jessica Sullivan, assistant professor in the College of Education, was selected by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) Board of Directors, who unanimously approved the recommendation of the Scientific and Professional Education Board (SPEB) to appoint her as the co-chair for the ASHA Convention, 2019.

Dr. Brian Mosier, sports management department chair, has received a $3,000 mini-grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The specifically funded project, titled Get Fruved, is about health-related aspects of campus and student life, with an ultimate goal of helping first year students to have the healthiest and most successful first year of college possible.

Dr. Phyllis Snipes, professor in the College of Education, has been presented the William E. Patterson Award for 2017 for her outstanding work with the School Library Effectiveness Instrument. The award was established to honor library media professionals for outstanding and continuous service to the Georgia Library Media Association, Inc.
Dr. Melissa Johnston, associate professor in the College of Education, has won the IASL Conference Best Research Paper Award for making a research and/or theoretical contribution to the field of school librarianship for her paper, “Preparing Teacher Librarians to Support STEM Education.”

Kelly Dyar, MSN, RN, CNN, CNE will receive the National League of Nursing’s Southern Nursing Research Society Research Award for Phenomenological Exploration of Male Combat Veterans in Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Programs. The award will be presented at the NLN Education Summit in San Diego in September.

Dr. Xiaofeng Gu, assistant professor of mathematics, received a $42,000 Collaboration Grant for Mathematicians from the Simons Foundation. The goal of this nationwide program is to support the “mathematical marketplace” by substantially increasing collaborative contacts between mathematicians.


Dr. Jon Anderson, professor in the Richards College of Business, received the Best Paper Presenter Award at the International Conference on Business Management and Legal Studies for his presentation titled “Entrepreneurship and the Social Construction of Reality.”

Dr. Sunil Hazari, professor of marketing, Dr. Beheruz N. Sethna, regents’ professor of marketing, and Cheryl Brown, senior lecturer in marketing, published an article titled “Determinants of Pinterest Affinity for Marketers using Antecedents of User-Platform Fit, Design, Technology, and Media Content.” It has been accepted for publication in the International Journal of Technology Marketing.

Partnership Success

Jessica Renard, program coordinator for education abroad, has been named the Georgia School Liaison for Lessons from Abroad, a national organization that sponsors programming to help students returning from study abroad build on their experience to enhance career planning and personal development.

The College of Education’s Ed.D. in School Improvement program has been selected as a member of the prestigious Carnegie Project on the Education Doctorate Consortium.
Operational Success

The Center for Economic Education in the Richards College of Business will receive $9,500 in funding again this year from the Koch Foundation to support the ECONreads program.

Richards College of Business will celebrate 50 years of changing lives through education, engagement and experiences as it commemorates the year the Division of Business and Economic Studies was created. They will also celebrate 20 years of honoring the name of Roy Richards, Sr.

Academic Testing Services has received recognition as a nationally certified test center through the National College Testing Association. UWG is one of fewer than 200 college/university testing sites in the United States and Canada to receive this accreditation.

Share your own story and tell us your own Point of Pride. For more information visit www.westga.edu/ucm/1792.php.