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**

Garri Hovhannisyan, master of art student in psychology in the College of Social Sciences, won a national award for "Best Student Paper" in the Society for Theoretical and Philosophical Psychology, a division of the American Psychological Association. He presented his paper at the August conference in Washington D.C. and it was selected as the best among student submissions in 2017.

Laura Boalch, senior BSN student in the UWG Tanner Health System School of Nursing, will attend the International Sigma Theta Tau 44th Biennial Convention in Indianapolis, where she will present her paper, *Faculty Caring: Nursing Students’ Perspective Using Q-Methodology*.

Nadia Prince-Williams, MSN alum in the UWG Tanner Health System School of Nursing, will attend the International Sigma Theta Tau 44th Biennial Convention in Indianapolis, where she will present her research, *The Impact of a Structured Palliative Care Program on Unit Readmission Rates*.

Megan Groninger, Master of Arts in the College of Arts and Humanities, won The North American Conference on British Stories M.A. Essay Prize for her thesis Deserving and Undeserving: Representations of the Moralization of Poverty in the British Press during the Passing of the New Poor Law. She is now in the Ph.D. program at Florida State University.

Two former graduate research assistants in the Center for Public History began their news jobs. Harvee White will be working at the Augusta Museum of History and Hannah Givens will be working in Ingram Library. Both earned their master of arts in history this past summer.
Dr. Melissa Johnston, associate professor in educational technology and foundations in the College of Education, was recently notified of her external grant funding of $386,569 from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Johnston is a recipient from The Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program which supports projects to recruit and educate the next generation of librarians, faculty, and library leaders. Her project is titled Rural Engagement to Advance Learning in STEM Digitally (REALISD) in School Libraries.

Agnieszka Chwialkowska, assistant professor of marketing in the Richards College of Business, wrote an article titled “How Nordic companies in Nigeria respond to host-country risks: a network theory approach.” It has been published in the International Journal of Export Marketing.

Kelly Dyar, MSN, RN, CNN in the UWG Tanner Health System School of Nursing, will attend the International Sigma Theta Tau 44th Biennial convention, where she will present her research, Phenomenological Exploration of Male Combat Veterans in Baccalaureate Nursing Programs. She will also graduate from the Ed.D. program in December.


Dr. Larry Schor, professor of psychology in the College of Social Sciences, recently completed the largest study ever on a rare neurological condition called cluster headache, referred to as the most painful condition humans’ experience. Schor, working with UWG alumnus Stuart Pearson, MA, obtained data from patients in 62 countries and territories that included access to effective treatments, suicidality, personal burden and other constructs. He recently received an Abstract of Distinction award from the International Headache Society and presented his preliminary findings at the largest Cluster Headache conference in the world. In addition to publication in scientific journals, he expects to use his data to enhance physician understanding, patient education, and funding for this rare and excruciating disorder.
Dr. Bob Powell, professor of physics and director of the observatory in the College of Science and Math, was named one of the 2017 fellows of the American Association of Physics Teachers (AAPT). The criterion for selection of Fellows is exceptional contribution to AAPT’s mission, to enhance the understanding and appreciation of physics through teaching. Fellowship is a distinct honor signifying recognition by one’s professional peers.

Cheryl Thomas Hill, coordinator for the African American Male Initiative (AAMI) in the Center for Diversity and Inclusion, received a $30,000 grant for the AAMI program from the USG Board of Regents. The goal of the AAMI Program is to increase retention, progression and graduation (RPG) rates of African American male students attending UWG.

Dr. Tammy Cline, instructor of Art education in the College of Arts and Humanities, presented her paper, Educational implications of the cultural constructs and constraints affecting creative ideation in first and second generation Chinese students, at the Curriculum and Pedagogy Conference in New Orleans, La.

Nadya Williams, associate professor of history in the College of Arts and Humanities, co-edited the book Civilians and Warfare in World History. The book explores the role played by civilians in shaping the outcomes of military combat across time and place.

**Partnership Success**

OFS Fite in Carrollton has agreed to fund the OFS Academic Experiential Learning Scholarship. This will provide four years of full tuition and fees to a student with 3.3 or higher GPA and leadership potential in business, ITS or science. The scholarship will also include a paid summer internship at OFS for three years from freshman through junior years.

Dr. Daniel Helminiak, professor of psychology in the College of Social Sciences, has been invited by Rev. Dr. Beverly Dale, founder and chair of the Incarnation Institute for Sex and Faith, to be a board member of the institute. It is committed to train sexual-health professionals and Christian clergy in an inclusive, science-friendly, sex-positive Christianity.

The history department’s Center for Public History began strategic planning for the West Georgia Textile Trail, a cultural heritage tourism initiative, with a grant received from the Callaway Foundation earlier in the year.

The Center for Public History faculty and staff held kick-off meetings for two new Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (CESU) agreements with the National Park Service—an Administrative History of Chattahoochee River National Recreational Area and a Special History of Andersonville National Historic Site.
Operational Success

The University of West Georgia has been recognized among the nation's top universities in meeting student needs and its business, nursing and education programs have been included among the country’s most effective in a new publication from Colleges of Distinction.

The University of West Georgia has been named the #10 Best College for Lowest Student Loan Debt in Georgia by lendedu.com.

The University of West Georgia’s master of education in reading instruction program has been ranked #5 in the U.S. by AffordableColleges.com. In a review of schools across the nation, UWG’s program stood out in both quality and affordability.

The 2018 U.S. News & World Report recognized the University of West Georgia among the nation’s top colleges and universities. The ranking is based on such widely accepted indicators of excellence as first-year student retention and graduation rates and the strength of the faculty.

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