Academic Success

UWG has qualified for the National Debate Tournament. Honors College seniors Osayame Gaius-Obaseki (computer science) and Vanova Robles (philosophy) will be traveling to the University of Iowa April 2-7 to compete at the National Debate Tournament (NDT), two weeks after having competed at CEDA Nationals, hosted by Wichita State University. This marks the 42nd time in the last 43 years that UWG has qualified for the NDT, making us one of the top 12 institutions in the nation in terms of number of years qualifying.

Robert Lane recently presented “Peirce’s Representationalist Theory of Truth,” at the meeting of the Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy in Grand Rapids, MI, on March 7.

Three Tanner Health System School of Nursing faculty have recently been recognized for external awards: Dr. Cindy Epps, UWG professor and associate dean, received the Most Influential Alumni Award from her alma mater, East Tennessee State University; Dr. Mary Bishop, DNP, CNL, MSN, program director and assistant professor of nursing was recently selected as a fellow in the 2015 National League for Nursing (NLN)’s LEAD Program; Dr. Christy Berding is the recipient of the GANE Jan Van de Verde Award.
Student Success

UWG alumna Trista Edwards, who received her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the College of Arts and Humanities, has published an anthology of poems entitled, “Till the Tide: An Anthology of Mermaid Poetry.” The book will be released this April from Sundress Publications. Edwards is currently a Ph.D. candidate at the University of North Texas.

UWG alumnus Nick McRae has released a book of poetry entitled, “The Name Museum,” from C&R Press. McRae graduated from UWG’s College of Arts and Humanities with his bachelor’s degree and attained his MFA from Ohio State. This is McRae’s second publication. He is currently a Robert B. Toulouse Doctoral Fellow in English at the University of North Texas.

Sophomore guard Deonta Stocks was named to the South Regional All-Tournament team at the conclusion of the NCAA tournament in March. The Wolves had two of the more exciting games of the NCAA Tournament, largely thanks to the last-second heroics of Stocks, who took the ball coast-to-coast in six seconds against West Alabama hitting a buzzer-beater to give the Wolves an 80-79 victory.

Twelve master’s in nursing graduates (2012, 2013, 2014) presented a total of nine papers at the Clinical Nurse Leader 2015 Summit of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing.

Forward Taylor Beverly was named to the 2015 Daktronics All-Region First Team this month. By earning First Team honors, Beverly is automatically nominated for Daktronics All-American honors, which will be named later this month. The senior from Brandon, Miss., averaged a double-double this season, pouring in 18.5 points and 10.7 rebounds per game on the year. She scored a total of 556 points and pulled down 320 rebounds, collecting a school-record 17 double-doubles in the season.

Alumna Jan Keys, DNP, FACHE (BSN 2000, MSN 2003), chief nurse executive of Erlanger in Chattanooga, was recently awarded fellow status with the American College of Healthcare Executives.

Jennifer Elemen, a doctoral student in the College of Education, presented on Sunday, March 8, at the California Council for the Social Studies 54th Annual Conference in Oakland on “Increasing Civic Participation: High School Students’ Participation in Distributed Leadership.”
Partnership Success

The University of West Georgia police department was named the recipient of a $150,000 grant from STANLEY Convergent Security Solutions, Inc., thanks to thousands of Wolf fans who voted in a nationwide contest sponsored by STANLEY. UWG will receive $150,000 in equipment and services from STANLEY that will benefit student safety. The grant will pay for the first phase in a multi-pronged plan that University Police Chief Tom Mackel has laid out for the future of campus safety.

UWG alumni Angela and Michael McConnell donated a scholarship endowment of $25,000 to benefit student athletes pursuing a degree in business. Angela (1984) was on the co-ed cheerleading team, and Michael (1985) was on UWG’s 1982 championship football team.

TeachLivE UWG, a program within the College of Education Fusion Center, is now an Official Research and Development Partner Site with TeachLivE Florida.

On Saturday, Feb. 14, the University of West Georgia hosted a High School Science Olympiad meet for 10 teams from eight high schools. Nearly 200 students, teachers, and parents attended the competition. Lead by Lindsey Robinson, the UTeach program served as fantastic hosts for our budding scientists and mathematicians. UWG professors Gail Marshall, Judy Cox, Jill Drake, Danilo Baylen, and more than half a dozen UTeach students volunteered their Saturday to run multiple events for students. They spent most of the day working with the high school students in competitions like “Technical Problem Solving,” “Write It, Do It,” “Cell Biology,” and 20 others. The events are designed to engage students in problem solving, critical thinking, and technical writing in a manner that is both engaging and informative.

Operational Success

UWG’s athletics program, Coach Will Hall, and the West Georgia Athletic Foundation were recognized at the Georgia capitol Tuesday, March 24, with the signing of a resolution that honored UWG’s National Semi-Final football team and their record-breaking 2014 season.

The Tanner Health System School of Nursing’s Simulation Laboratory and Program has been selected as a pre-conference host site for the 14th annual International Nursing Simulation and Learning Resources Conference.
Richards College of Business’ online MBA was once again ranked by U.S. News & World Report for the 2016 Best Graduate Schools guidebook.

An open house was held this month for the new Student Athlete Success Center. The Athletics academic support office began in 2009 with the creation of the athletics academic coordinator position – a collaboration between Student Affairs, the former EXCEL Center, and the UWG athletics department. The office and position were housed in the EXCEL Center until 2012 when space opened up in the Murphy Building. Now the office is located in UCC 312, has two full-time employees, four graduate students, and one practicum student for the 2014-15 academic year. The new space has seating for 31 students, two office cubicles, 11 desktop computers, 11 study carrels, and a small area for independent study.

The UWG Tanner Health System School of Nursing was ranked #41 by U.S. News & World Report for its online graduate programs. Its master of nursing program received a #32 ranking by College Choice.

Wolves baseball earned its first national ranking under head coach Skip Fite. The Wolves tied for 21st in the weekly poll in the Collegiate Baseball Newspaper Top 25.

Lecturer Bridgette Stewart, MEd, was recently named the 2015 J. Owen Moore faculty award recipient! The award recognizes service to the university, students, and the community. It was named in memory of J. Owen Moore, a 1940 UWG graduate, retired faculty member, lifetime member of the Alumni Association, and loyal supporter of UWG.

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