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 2015

Student Success

Three UWG educational leadership graduates were invited to present their research findings to other educational leaders at the Georgia Association of Educational Leaders summer conference. Participants were Kristen Vaughn, assistant principal of Harper Elementary School, Clayton County School System; Amanda Carden, assistant principal at Carrollton Elementary School, Carrollton City School System; and John Crosby, assistant principal of Lee Middle School, Coweta County School System. This is the third consecutive year that UWG has had presenters at the conference.

The WOLF Internet Radio was selected as a finalist in the category of Best Station Imaging of College Broadcasters Inc.’s 2015 National Student Production Awards. This marks the second time that The WOLF Internet Radio has been named a finalist in the competition.

The National Association of Elementary Principals named UWG alum Stan McMichael ’08 this year’s National Outstanding Elementary Assistant Principal of the Year. Stan currently serves as assistant principal at Western Elementary School in Coweta County.
Kim Holder, UWG lecturer, recently returned from the National Conference on Teaching and Research in Economic Education, where she presented at two sessions: “Using Mobile Technologies to Engage and Communicate” and “Sweetening the Deal: Adding Value to Motivate Student Attendance and Engagement.” In July, she spoke at a professional development workshop for Florida K-12 educators sponsored by the Atlanta Federal Reserve (Jacksonville Branch) and the Florida State College of Jacksonville’s Center on Economic and Financial Education. In August, Kim was the featured invited speaker for the Columbia Economics Club in Columbia, S.C., presenting her economics education research “50 Movies for 50 Years: A Look at the Most Influential Films Related to Economics” to economists and business leaders in the South Carolina area.

College of Education faculty member Dr. Katy Green, in collaboration with Dr. Jessica Bucholz and Dr. Laura Smith, were awarded a $5,000 UWise grant for their proposal “Effects of Content Acquisition Podcasts to Develop Pre-service Teachers’ Pedagogical Content Knowledge in Mathematics for Teaching Children with Exceptionalities.”

Richards College of Business faculty member Dr. Christine Haynes won the Outstanding Paper award for her article, “The Impact of Audit Reforms on Objectivity During the Performance of Non-Audit Services,” in the Managerial Auditing Journal. The winners, selected by Emerald Group Publishing, were judged on research excellence, rigor, and relevance.

Department of Psychology Assistant Professor Tugçe Kurtis guest edited, along with four other editors, the special thematic section on “Decolonizing Psychological Science,” in the Journal of Political and Social Psychology. The articles in this special section feature authors and research from 10 countries.

Richards College of Business faculty member Susan Hall Webb was selected as a Governor’s Teaching Fellow for the 2015-2016 academic year. Susan was one of only two UWG faculty nominated, and she now joins this statewide program for a year of professional development with a select group of educators across our state.

Richards College of Business faculty member Sharon Seay’s article, “Going Concern - Where is it Going?,” has been accepted for publication in the Academy of Accounting and Financial Studies Journal.

State University of New York Press released Daniel Helminiak’s book, Brain, Consciousness, and God: A Lonerganian Integration. This work of 10 years is a constructive critique of neuroscientific research on human consciousness and religious experience.

Online Course Report ranked Richards College of Business No. 2 for its online MBA program. Online Course Report shows the top online programs in many categories of graduate level degrees.

Monica Smith, Richards College of Business lecturer in management, has been appointed to the Carroll County Board of Elections and Registration.

Adra Mayfield, Comprehensive Community Clinic faculty member, has a new therapy dog, Fletcher. He is working with the young children at the Murphy Campus for speech therapy. He will be visiting the CCC Carrollton campus in the fall working in both speech and reading clinics.

Richards College of Business faculty member James Murphy’s article, “A Caveat for the Application of the Critical Cost Efficiency Index in Induced Budget Experiments,” was chosen for the Sept. 2015 issue of Experimental Economics.
Partnership Success

Realtor.com recently ranked Carrollton ninth nationwide in a listing of the 10 least expensive college towns. The article highlighted UWG for providing shows, sports events, performances, and seminars to the community.

Nerdwallet.com ranked Carrollton #9 of the best places in Georgia to start a business. The city description draws special attention to UWG’s Small Business Development Center and concludes that Carrollton is one of the more profitable cities in the state for business owners. Nerdwallet.com is a financial education and empowerment site.

Sarah Gardner, the current president of Johns Hopkins’ chapter of Chi Sigma Iota, met Juliana Carter, graduate research assistant for UWG’s College of Education, at the American Counseling Association conference in Orlando, Fla. Sarah noted in an email to Dr. Mark Parrish, UWG counseling department chair, that the Johns Hopkins’ chapter of the Chi Sigma Iota honor society would like to collaborate with the UWG chapter of the honor society. This is an opportunity for UWG to inform Johns Hopkins master’s students about UWG’s doctoral program.

Operational Success

The University of West Georgia received national recognition from the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) in the Leadership Development and Diversity category of its Excellence and Innovation Awards. The national award honored UWG’s Engage West! initiative, focused on creating a culture of high performance and evidence-based leadership via the implementation of leadership development institutes, a new strategic plan, and core values – all centered on student success – with the vision of becoming the “best place to work, learn, and succeed.” AASCU President Muriel A. Howard says that “the innovative and collaborative approaches for which these universities are being honored will inspire not only their AASCU colleagues, but all of higher education.”

Dr. Tom Gainey is UWG’s first David H. Hovey Distinguished Scholar. This is a three-year appointment that is awarded to a scholar in the Richards College of Business who has shown a brilliant history in strategic management and has demonstrated strategic leadership. This is named after the late Dr. David Hovey, former dean of RCOB.

Five new Cardiac Science AED units have been contributed to Risk Management and Environment Health Safety’s Campus AED Program to expand the coverage and service area for departmental buildings. Currently, all AED units and cabinets are in full operational order.

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