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.

December 2015

Student Success

Student Austin W. Gann and Chemistry Professor Partha Ray’s article, “Synthesis of 2-Amino-6,7,8,9-tetrahydro-6-phenethyl-3H-pyrimido[4,5-e][1,4]diazepin-4(5H)-one: A Model for a Potential Pyrimido[4,5-e][1,4]diazine-Based Folate Anti-tumor Agent,” was published in Heterocyclic Communications, a peer-reviewed international chemistry journal. The research developed synthetic methodology to a model compound, which will be used to make potential anti-cancer drugs.

The Richards College of Business student team won three awards at the 23rd International Economic Convention in Mumbai, India. The team of Emily Phillippi, Natysa Wright, Miringu Kiarie, and Earvin Anumgba won Best Paper, Best Presentation, and Best Overall, the highest award given.

UWG student Austin B. Kerlin, under the guidance and collaboration with physics department faculty J.E. Hasbun and Ajith DeSilva, produced a work titled, "Simple Experiments and Modeling of Incandescent Lamp Spectra," which has been accepted for publication by the Georgia Journal of Science.

Dr. Sooho Lee, associate professor in the college of social sciences, and Ryan Fleming ’12, former Master of Public Administration student, presented a paper titled, “Collaborative Disaster Management in Local Governments: Perception, Performance, and Challenges.” The paper was accepted for publication in the International Journal of Emergency Management.
**Academic Success**

Dr. Caroline Perjessy, assistant professor of counselor education and college student affairs, has been awarded a Campus Action Project Grant from the American Association of University Women. Dr. Perjessy and the UWG student organization College Girls Rock will host A STEM Day at UWG in spring 2016 to educate and recruit female high school students into the STEM fields.

Richards College of Business faculty member Dr. Susan Webb’s article “Small Business and Social Media: What Social Media is Most Frequently Used by Small Businesses and Does the Choice Reflect the Age of the Business?” has been accepted for publication in the Journal of Digital and Social Media Marketing. Dr. Webb was also elected Director of Communications for the Association of Research in Business Education. This position includes serving on the board of the research division of the National Business Education Association.

College of Education faculty Dr. Danilo Baylen received the Education Award from the International Visual Literacy Association for his significant contributions to visual literacy. Dr. Baylen also received the President’s Service Recognition Award from the Association for Education Communications and Technology for his significant service to the international division.

James Church, assistant professor of computer science, finished his book, “Learning Haskell Data Analysis.” The book, which focuses on data analysis algorithms in the language of Haskell, has a 4+ star rating on Amazon.com and made its way to the top 100 books in the data mining category.

Associate Professor for the Richards College of Business Dr. Sharon Seay’s article, “Sustainability is Applied Ethics,” was published in the December issue of the Journal of Legal, Ethical & Regulatory Issues.

The International Association of School Librarianship named Dr. Melissa Johnston, College of Education faculty, one of the eight most prolific researchers in school libraries. The association provides an international forum for people interested in promoting effective school library programs as viable instruments in the educational process.

**Partnership Success**

The Laura Bush Foundation invited College of Education Professor Dr. Melissa Johnston to the second round competition for her preliminary proposal studying how school library media specialists meet STEM needs over a three-year period.

Captain Stuart Pearson, an Afghanistan veteran, has partnered with UWG psychology professor and licensed professional counselor Larry Schor to develop a comprehensive survey on cluster headaches. The Qualtrics survey, scheduled to launch early 2016, is expected to be the data source for the largest international study ever conducted on cluster headaches.

Lorene Flanders, professor and dean of Libraries, completed a term as Georgia Chapter Councilor for the American Library Association (ALA) in January 2016. She was elected to council by the Georgia Library Association membership in 2011. ALA is the oldest and largest library association in the world.

Students from Lithia Springs High school visited the biology department for STEM learning. This was the first year that students as young as 15 years old were invited for hands-on experience in the microbiology lab. Professor Dr. Sara Molesworth Kenyon taught students how to culture bacteria while maintaining a safe work environment for biosafety level 1.
Dr. Matt Varga, College of Education professor, was elected president-elect for the Southern Association for College Student Affairs, an independent, regional, and generalist association designed for the professional development of practitioners, educators, and students in the student affairs profession.

Dr. Julia Whisenhunt, College of Education faculty, has been selected by the University System of Georgia to be one of 10 Scholarship of Teaching & Learning (SoTL) fellows for the 2016 - 2017 academic year. As a fellow, Dr. Whisenhunt will conduct a classroom-based research project to foster student success working as part of a community of SoTL scholars from other Georgia universities and colleges.

Operational Success

For the second consecutive year, University of West Georgia President Dr. Kyle Marrero has been named one of the top 100 Most Influential Georgians in 2016 by Georgia Trend, a magazine of Georgia business, politics, and economic development.

The College of Education online master’s degree in media was ranked 17th best in the nation by OnlineColleges.net. The 2016 ranking reviews every college offering an online master’s in educational technology.

Georgia Power awarded its New Teacher Assistance Grant to three of UWG’s new teachers. Trey Summerville, Meghan Euliano, and Ashley Sutton have been selected to each receive a $1,000 grant to help purchase classroom supplies and equipment.

College of Science and Mathematics Professor Dr. Veena Paliwal received a grant from the Spencer Foundation in the amount of $40,827 for her proposal, "How Can Intervention Best Promote the Learning of the Cardinality Principle?" More than 100 students attending the UWG preschool and the Bremen First Baptist pre-kindergarten program will receive intervention funded by the grant.

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