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.

June/July 2015

Student Success

Alumna **Carrin Daniels** was named a finalist for the Douglas County Teacher of the Year Award. She has been teaching at Chapel Hill Middle School for seven years. She was recently named Staff Member of the Month at CHMS.

**Victoria (Tori) Williams**, a student majoring in foreign languages and literatures (French and Spanish with K-12 certification), won two prestigious scholarships to help support her study abroad experience for fall 2015 at the Université François-Rabelais in Tours, France. The French government awarded her a Benjamin Franklin Travel Grant, which assists students majoring in French and another discipline who wish to study abroad. She was also awarded the H.O. Lovvorn Scholarship by the College of Arts and Humanities. Together with her $1,200 scholarship from International Services and Programs, Tori has earned almost $2,500 to fund her semester abroad.

**Daniel Garner**, a UWG sophomore majoring in anthropology, was recently selected as the 2015 Undergraduate Paper Prize Winner for the Southern Anthropological Society. Daniel is the first UWG student to win the prestigious Paper Prize and was recognized with a monetary award, book allotment award, and publication of his paper on the SAS website at southernanthro.org. Daniel’s paper, titled “Identify In Transition: An Ethnographic Study Of Latin American Immigration to the United States,” began as a research project for the Peoples and Cultures of Latin America class led by **Dr. Marjorie Snipes**.
Cassidy Chreene, a student majoring in foreign languages and literatures with a concentration in German, earned a coveted three-month German Academic International Network internship in program administration with the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) in New York for summer 2015. She will be helping to coordinate the young ambassador program for German exchange students.

Four Coweta County Teacher of the Year finalists earned their teaching degree from UWG’s College of Education: Samantha Clark, Arnall Middle School Teacher of the Year; Moses Mitchell, Evans Middle School Teacher of the Year; Ona Alford, Maggie Brown School Teacher of the Year; and Jan Deyton, Winston Dowdell Academy Teacher of the Year.

UWG chapter of the National Broadcasting Society received several awards and honors at the National Broadcasting Society’s 52nd Annual Undergraduate Student Electronic Media Competition. NBS-UWG was selected as chapter of the year, recognized as a model chapter, and earned a community service award in the multiple projects category. President Amber Dees took home the student of the year award (the second year in a row NBS-UWG earned student of the year honors) and Sierra Lemelle was recognized as Rookie of the Year. NBS-UWG students also earned two grand prizes (Malcolm Yates, audio commercial category, and Tammy Parrett, academic paper category).

Recent College of Education graduate Juliana Carter’s proposed program, “Supporting Leadership Competency in Master’s Level CITs through Peer-Based Intervention,” has been selected for presentation at the 2015 ACES Conference in Philadelphia in October.

Academic Success

The Richards College of Business online MBA is ranked #21 in the 2015 Princeton Review rankings. This marks the first ranking to include both school data and student survey responses. It is the highest ranked Georgia WebMBA school.

Dr. Greg Dixon was awarded a Governor’s Teaching Fellowship for the 2015-16 academic year.

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?” She will be working with students who attend the Bremen First Baptist Pre-K program.

Drs. Christopher Bounds, Myrna Gantner, and Amber Smallwood led a presentation at the National Institute on the Assessment of Adult Learning on the launch of the credit for prior learning program at UWG. Starting this fall, students in the College of Social Sciences may receive select course credit for prior learning through a portfolio submission process.

Dr. John Roberts, assistant professor of psychology and the first graduate in UWG’s Ph.D. in Psychology - Consciousness and Society program, won the Sigmund Koch Award for early career contribution to psychology from the American Psychological Association’s (APA) Division 24. The Sigmund Koch Award is presented to an accomplished young psychologist each year who is normally within 10 years of the Ph.D. degree and has made promising contributions to theoretical or philosophical psychology.

John Ike Sewell’s article, “The Singular ‘They’: Transgender’s Pronominal Revolution,” was chosen as the top paper of 2015 by the GLBTQ Communication Studies Division of the National Communication Association. He will present the paper at the NCA conference this November.

Dr. Danilo M. Baylen will serve as faculty for the Professional and Organizational Development Network in Higher Education (POD), Institute of New Faculty Developments program held at Western Carolina University in Asheville, North Carolina.
College of Social Sciences faculty Dr. Lisa Osbeck, professor of psychology, has been named the recipient of the American Psychological Association’s (APA) Arthur Staats Award. The award is given to a psychologist whose body of work has held great significance for many fields of psychology or has the potential to be extrapolated to have unifying power within the discipline of psychology as a whole. As the 2016 recipient, Dr. Osbeck will deliver the Arthur W. Staats Lecture for Unifying Psychology at the 2016 convention of the American Psychological Association in August in Toronto.

**Partnership Success**

The University of West Georgia’s UTeach Program hosted the first UWG STEM Competition and Showcase for area middle and high school students and teachers on Saturday, May 2. The topic for this event was “STEM Supports Sustainability,” which focused on four types of events: team writing, quiz bowl written and face to face, skill-based lab performance, and design and engineering. There were also several displays pertaining to STEM and sustainability efforts set up in the COE grassy area in front of the Ed. Center. NASA, Sunpower, UWise, and the Sustainability Council were some of the participants.

The Comprehensive Community Clinic received a check from the Mary Alice and Bennett Brown Foundation for $10,000. This contribution will match funds received from the Community Foundation of West Georgia and will establish speech-hearing services (Speech Therapy Project) in a rural part of Georgia that has few resources.

The Prevention and Advocacy Resource Center (PARC) recently renamed its annual volunteer award The Dr. N. Jane McCandless Leadership Award. The name change served to honor College of Social Sciences Dean Dr. N. Jane McCandless for her two-decade long service to the community through the organization. PARC is a nonprofit organization that works closely with the University of West Georgia to prevent sexual violence and assist those who have experienced sexual assault.

Erin Brannon, administrative manager for the College of Social Sciences, graduated from the 2015 Carroll County Chamber of Commerce Leadership Academy and was selected to give remarks at the ceremony. The Leadership Academy prepares, challenges, and engages emerging and existing leaders to strengthen the community.
Operational Success

UWG's Office of Development continues to break records with fundraising results. Total dollars raised, annual fund giving and cash in the door dollars have surpassed all previous fundraising levels.

Fundraising Stats
• $7,578,695 in total giving against a fiscal year goal of $6 million
• $851,000 in total giving for the annual fund campaign against fiscal year goal of $850,000
• $3,313,538 in VSE/Cash in the Door against fiscal year goal of $3.25 million

Dr. N. Jane McCandless completed the Harvard Graduate School of Education’s prestigious Management and Leadership in Education summer program in June 2015.

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