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.

May 2015

Student Success

UWG students from President Emeritus Dr. Beheruz N. Sethna’s MKTG 3804 class recently won the #1 Undergraduate Research Award from the National Social Sciences Association. Three teams of undergraduate students represented UWG at the Annual Meeting of the National Social Sciences Association in Las Vegas, March 29-31. Marshala Cofer and Laney Zahner presented their research on the University Bookstore and won the award for the best undergraduate research paper in the United States.

Richards College of Business Jovan Johnson was awarded a $5,000 scholarship from the Educational Foundation of the Georgia Society of Certified Public Accountants. Jovan is a member of the first cohort for the Southwire Sustainable Business Honors Program, which allows students to earn their bachelor’s and master’s degrees simultaneously.

Alumna Tracy Scaglione was recently named the 2015 Douglas County Library Media Specialist of the Year for the Douglas County School System. Tracy is now in her thirteenth year as media specialist at Dorsett Shoals Elementary.

Dr. Hillary Meeler was promoted to the new principal of Honey Creek Elementary School for the 2015-2016 academic year. She earned her leadership certificate from UWG in 2013.
Daniel Garner, a sophomore undergraduate student in anthropology, was selected as the 2015 Undergraduate Paper Prize Winner for the Southern Anthropological Society. Daniel is the first University of West Georgia student to win the prestigious Paper Prize and will be recognized with a monetary award, book allotment award, and publication of his paper on the SAS website at southernanthro.org.

The National Broadcasting Society-UWG Chapter won Chapter of the Year at the 73rd National Convention of the National Broadcasting Society-Alpha Epsilon Rho. The Chapter also earned the Community Service Award for Multiple Projects and was selected as a Model Chapter for the second year in a row.

**Academic Success**

The English department’s Gregory Fraser has been awarded a prestigious Guggenheim Fellowship for 2015. Roughly 200 fellowships are awarded each year from a pool of 3,500 to 4,000 applications.

The current issue of Georgia Backroads magazine features an article by retired faculty member Carole Scott titled, “The Rise and Fall of the Witham Banking Empire.”

RCOB student William Cross participated in the TYE University Atlanta entrepreneur business plan event and won 2nd place. He presented his business plan for NeuropAWAY, the product he produces for diabetic neuropathy under his business, VasoCorp. He also made it past the first round in a nationwide entrepreneur competition in Nebraska earlier this month and will be competing in Texas this month against entrepreneurs from all over the world.

Alumnus from the UWG Doctorate in School Improvement program, Dr. Michael Berg, presented at the Georgia Regents University’s 17th Annual Impacting Student Learning Conference on March 21. His presentation was titled “Strategies for promoting a positive inclusive classroom.”

**Partnership Success**

John Wasdin signed a commitment for a legacy gift to establish an endowed scholarship agreement for student athletes majoring in business.

One of UWG’s Small Business Development Center clients, Scott Soesbee, was named the SBA Administrator Honors Nation’s Top Small Businesses for the state of Georgia. Soesbee is the CEO/Founder of FlameOff Coatings, Inc., of Douglasville.

Richards College alum and Board of Advisors member Fred O’Neal and his wife, Lillian, have pledged a legacy gift of $250,000 for the recruitment and retention of minority students at UWG. It will benefit students from all majors.

Alum Leonard Moreland and his wife, Kay, have signed a bequest up to $100,000 to benefit Richards College of Business students with financial need.

Homegrown Band, of which four of the five members are UWG alums, recently released a new country single titled “I’m Gonna Be Me.” In April of this year, this new hit charted at #79 on the Nashville Breakout Chart. The album will be released in May.
Operational Success

The University of West Georgia placed #1 in the nation for a school with between 7,001 and 17,000 students in our first time competing in the recent National RecycleMania Tournament. In the State of Georgia standings, UWG ranked #2 in the “Gorilla Class” – total accumulation of recycle commodities for the eight weeks in February and March.

Congrats to Beheruz N. Sethna on his invitations to work with two leadership programs sponsored by the American Council on Education. He has been a keynote speaker, panelist, and mentor for the ACE Spectrum Executive Leadership Program for many years and was invited to serve as a speaker at this ACE Spectrum Aspiring Leaders Program this year.

Thanks to Joey Smith, Hilde Patron, Mike Sinkey, and their colleagues in the Department of Economics for the great work they did this year for the Georgia Senate. This is the second year the Senate has contracted with the Center for Business and Economic Research for policy analysis.

Per the Atlanta Business Chronicle, UWG is one of the largest 25 schools in the area, and UWG’s Richards College of Business MBA program as 10th in total enrollment.

Dr. David Jenks holds the distinction of being the first course developer at the University of West Georgia to submit a course for a formal, external Quality Matters Peer Course Review. The course, “Introduction to Law Enforcement” (CRIM 2272), was developed and taught by Dr. Jenks, and has officially met national QM review standards. As a result, Dr. Jenks’s course will be the first UWG fully online course listed in Quality Matters’ Registry of Courses and will now bear the official QM certification mark of recognition.

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