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.

November 2014

Academic Success

Richards College Board of Advisors member Stu Thorn was named the 2014 Corporate Responsibility Lifetime Achievement Award winner. The award, presented by Corporate Responsibility Magazine and the COMMIT!Forum, is given to the one CEO who exemplifies excellence in the nation at a two-day event held in New York City. Thorn is the president and chief executive officer of Southwire.

Amy Cuomo, professor of theatre, recently won the William Faulkner Literary Award: One Act Play Festival – second place for the play CyberEyes.

Dr. Brian Mosier, College of Education assistant professor, was named the Georgia College University Physical Education Teacher of the Year. The award recognizes the outstanding performance of physical educators at the college/university level. He will be awarded at the SHAPE America conference in February 2015.

Joey Smith, department chair in Richards College of Business, was selected to participate in the Board of Regents’ 2014 Executive Leadership Institute. The selection process was very competitive this year due to the maximum program capacity of 40 scholars. ELI is designed to provide learning experiences, leadership challenges, and exposure opportunities that enhance self-awareness, broaden perspectives, and build the social capital of USG leaders. UWG’s task was to identify "individuals who are currently high potential, high-performing leaders."
Student Success

The University of West Georgia has been named by The Princeton Review one of the 138 “Best Colleges in the Southeast.” The Princeton Review endorses only 648 colleges and schools nationwide, approximately 25 percent of all four-year institutions. The endorsement is based on outstanding academic programs, and an independent online student survey.

Seven graduate and undergraduate students from UWG presented at the 2014 West Georgia RESA Instructional Technology Conference at Callaway Gardens, Pine Mountain, Ga. Presenting students included five from the SLM Program:
- Jo Nase and Amanda Vick presented “Augment-ify Your Teaching” (Western Elementary)
- Ginnie Walker and Pam Murphy presented “Web 2.0 Tools in Secondary Schools” (Troup County)
- Dr. Amanda White presented “Maximizing Your School’s Search Engine” (Fayette County)

And two from the IT Program:
- Jamie Vandegrift, current Ed.S. IT student, presented “Social Media: Where Our Kids Really Are and Why”
- Micki Byrnes, graduate of Ed.S. IT, presented “Digital Photography for the ELA Classroom”

Two Richards College of Business students were winners in a recent study abroad photo contest. Khanor Runzi, who spent a year abroad with France Business School, was recognized in two categories: he was the runner-up in the nature category and won in the architecture category. And he also won best in show. Kymberli Darling, an art major, participated in the International Business Program in London last year and won awards for two photos from the trip: she was the runner-up in the architecture category and received an honorable mention in the nature category.

The students in the Political Science Club held a voter registration drive in conjunction with the League of Women Voters Carrollton Carroll County on National Voter Registration Day in the Pafford Building Lobby. The drive was very successful approximately 100 students were registered.

Four UWG scholarly students were accepted for presentation at the 2014 NCHC Conference. The conference is being held in Denver, Colo., Nov. 5-9, and has a theme titled, “The Thrill of the Climb and the Agony of the Fall.” The presentations will be:
- Verb-STEM: Poetry and Prose Composed with Code and Mathematical Notation
  Presenter: Osayame Gaius-Obaseki
- Molecular Characterization of a Chlorophyll Deficient Chlamydomonas Reinhardtii Mutant Defective in Photosynthesis:
  Presenter/Authors: Mautusi Mitra, Tashana Haye, Theresa Fuller, Tai Truong, Katherine Smith
- Data Mining Twitter to Guage Public Opinion
  Presenter: Osayame Gaius-Obaseki
- Looking Past Petroleum: Growing Biofuel Using Brine from Abandoned Oil Wells
  Presenter: Trisha Dilapati
- Poetry Master Class: Presenting Poetry titled, Little Boy, How to Embalm a Body, & How Not to Sleep
  Presenter: Taylor Boltz

Honors College students will be presenting research at six different conferences this semester alone, including the 66th Southeastern Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society (SERMACS) in Nashville, Tenn., Oct. 16-19; the 40th Annual Midwest/Southeast Photosynthesis Meeting in Marshall, Ind., Oct. 24-26; The Albany State Undergraduate Research Symposium, in Albany, Ga., Oct. 30, the National Collegiate Honors Council Conference (NCHC), in Denver, Col., Nov. 5-9; the Georgia Undergraduate Research Conference in Statesboro, Ga., Nov. 14-15; and the Southeast Regional Model United Nations Conference in Atlanta, Ga, Nov. 20-22.
Operational Success

The University of West Georgia was honored by the Chancellor of the University System of Georgia Hank Huckaby by receiving the **Bronze Chancellor Service Excellence Award for Outstanding Institution of the Year and President** at a ceremony held at Kennesaw State University. The Chancellor's Service Excellence Awards were created to honor employees who have gone “above and beyond” their normal job responsibilities, but a special award was created for the overall university which went above and beyond.

**The Wolves Plaza** held its grand opening to unveil and dedicate the new bronze wolf statue at University Stadium. This statue, standing at over seven feet tall and weighting over 3,500 pounds, serves as a pinnacle for a new tradition in Wolves athletics.

The University of West Georgia’s commitment to an environmentally responsible campus and community found a collaborator in Scott Evans Nissan of Carrollton as the company recently **presented UWG with a 2015 Nissan Leaf**. The vehicle is part of a joint venture with the university to foster a cleaner environment. UWG president Dr. Kyle Marrero and Scott Evans attended the official event, during which the university formally received the vehicle.

In December 2013, Central Stores, Receiving and Delivery initiated the institution’s continuous improvement methodology of **Business Process Redesign (BPR)** to evaluate the current delivery process and determine where improvements could be gained. The BPR was successful in a number of ways. In addition to reducing the amount of unidentified packages from 1.8 percent to .47 percent during a four-month period, the number of researched packages dropped from 31 percent to 14.3 percent.

UWG was recently named one of the **top 31 “Promising Places to Work in Student Affairs”** by the American College Personnel Association and Diverse: Issues in Higher Education.

Institutional Effectiveness and Assessment won first place for the **Best Institutional Research Fact Book** and first place for the **Best Institutional Research Small Fact Book** at the annual SAIR Conference held on Oct. 4-7 in Destin, Florida.
Partnership Success

Nearly 300 faculty, staff, students and community members attended the public debate, UWG Debate versus iDebate Rwanda. The event, hosted by the University of West Georgia Honors College, was held on Thursday, Oct. 9, in the Campus Center Ballroom. Following the debate, the Rwandan debate team engaged in a detailed question and answer session about Rwanda, post genocide. It was the first stop for the team in the U.S.

The College of Education welcomed our Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta education colleague, Michael Chriszt, who led a symposium with high school students and teachers as part of Fed Day at UWG on Oct. 14. Dr. Judy Butler coordinated the event.

A new community outreach program, called uCode@UWG, has been created to offer free coaching on computer coding for kids, and it is held in the UWG Education Center the second Saturday of every month. It was created through a collaborative effort by the College of Education, College of Science and Mathematics, ITS, and the Office of Research and Sponsored Projects. Using such tools as Scratch, Alice, HTML, Blender, CodeAcademy, and many other freely available resources, it hopes to show kids that getting under the hood of computers can be pretty awesome and empowering. There is more information on this exciting program at westga.edu/ucode/index.php.

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