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.

January 2018

Student Success

Sarah Hall, a College of Education (COE) alumna, was named 2017 Teacher of the Year at Central High School in Carrollton, Ga.

The Office of Education Abroad announced six students have been selected to receive Wolves Abroad grants to support their participation in the UWG study abroad programs. This year’s winners are Vanhnila Stephanie Boun (art in France), Mark Goss (Asia Council in Japan), Bailey Thomas (international business in the Czech Republic), Jesse Morris (international business in South Africa), Alexis Poole (English in Italy), and Jessica Sisson (language and culture in Costa Rica).

Justin Lindsey, a COE doctoral student in school improvement, recently was named the 2017-18 Educator of the Year at the Northwest Georgia Healthcare Partnership North Georgia Autism Conference.

Students in Tanner Health System School of Nursing are presenting posters in the upcoming Georgia Nursing Leadership Coalition Doctoral Symposium. The students and their titled posters are Jennifer Castleberry, “Concept Analysis: Gender Continuum;” Catherine Whitley, “Medication Calculation in High-Fidelity Simulation;” Patsy Butts, “Learning Environment: Medication Administration Safety;” and Carla Adams, “Teaching Palliative Care in an Active Learning Environment.”

COE students Breana Roberts, Jailene Soto-Romero, Zachary Patterson-Goss and Brandi Ellis have been selected to participate in the NASA Minority University and Education Program’s Education Institute at Marshall Space Flight Center this summer. This opportunity will allow a STEM teacher and a STEM student to participate in a five-day professional development institute at a NASA center this summer.
Academic Success

COE’s **master’s degree program** was recently ranked among the best online master’s degree in teaching programs by **Top Masters in Education**.

Dr. Matt Varga, associate professor in College of Education (COE), proposed, researched and concepted the new **doctorate in higher education administration**, which recently was approved by the University System of Georgia’s Board of Regents. The first cohort starts in fall 2018.

Dr. Jessica Sullivan, assistant professor of communication sciences and professional counseling in the COE, is the Georgia High School Association (GHSA) Honors and Award Honoree for the **2018 Professional Achievement Award**.

Dawn Neely, assistant professor in the College of Arts and Humanities, was elected vice president of regions for the **National Opera Association**, based on her work as the southeastern regional governor during the past two years.

Dr. Adriana D’Alba, associate professor of educational technology and foundations in the COE, has been selected by the **International Journal of Virtual and Augmented Reality** to sit on its editorial review board.

The **College of Social Sciences** added a bachelor’s degree in **social and behavioral health** degree to its curriculum. Students will study the cultural, social, behavioral and mental aspects of health, in addition to health analytics, methods and services. They then will have employment options in hospitals, court systems, public health agencies, human services, in-patient behavioral health facilities, case management, assisted living facilities and nonprofit organizations.

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association recently named COE professor Dr. Jessica Sullivan co-chairwoman for the association’s annual convention in 2019.

**U.S. News & World Report** ranked the UWG Tanner Health System School of Nursing’s program **31st in the country and the top in Georgia**. The UWG College of Science and Mathematics' degree in information technology ranked 38th, and RCOB’s online MBA and COE’s online graduate program were among the top third of their categories, reaching 76th and 101st, respectively.

COE received approval for its new **doctorate in higher education administration**. The degree is the only of its kind in Georgia that is available completely online. Aimed at administrators seeking to advance their careers, the program will increase participants’ knowledge of **college and university administration, leadership and finance management**, as well as the ability to address and solve critical issues. Additionally, graduates will be better able to make policy and program improvements and address legal issues.

**Partnership Success**

The **Carrollton-Carroll County Education Collaborative** received a **$74,000 grant** from the Georgia Governor's Office of Student Achievement and the Sandra Dunagan Deal Center for Early Language and Literacy. The grant will fund a **childhood literacy** initiative to introduce parents and caregivers of young children to the importance of early language acquisition and arm them with skills to support their children’s literacy development so they are ready to learn when they start kindergarten.
Operational Success

UWG’s cheerleading program won its 22nd national championship in 16 years at the Universal Cheerleading Association’s National Championships. It was the fifth straight title in coed competition. UWG’s all-girl squad narrowly missed a Division I championship, placing second in the nation.

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

Best Education Degrees recognized COE’s master’s degree in education among its Best Online MAT Degrees.

UWG unveiled plans for a new, state-of-the-art student health center that, when built through a partnership with Tanner Health System, will allow the university to better serve students with no increase in mandatory health fees.

TheBestColleges.org ranked COE’s master’s degree in elementary education 18th in the nation in best online master’s degree in elementary education.

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