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.

Student Success

The University of West Georgia conferred a **record 2,610 degrees** in 2016-17, up from 2,442 in the previous academic year. That included a record 1,032 students recommended for degrees in the spring 2017 ceremony.

Richards College of Business student **Agnieszka Chwialkowska** recently defended her dissertation for her second Ph.D.

The University of West Georgia **debate team** competed at the 72nd National Debate Tournament, performing well enough in the preliminary rounds to clear to the elimination rounds for the sixth consecutive year. Only six other schools can match this streak currently: Emory, Georgetown, Harvard, Michigan, Michigan State, and Northwestern.

Alum **John Garner** was awarded **Georgia Veterans of Foreign Wars Teacher of the Year**. As winner of this prestigious award, he will now represent the State of Georgia at the national level competition.

**Brittany Janowski**, alumna and current College of Education faculty member, was selected as one of the **30 under 30 outstanding alumni**. The program recognizes 30 alumni who are under the age of 30 and who have made a significant impact in their career industries.
College of Education alumna Amanda Badertscher was selected as the Teacher of the Year at P.B. Ritch Middle School in Dallas, Ga. She is a 2012 graduate from the Health and Physical Education program.

College of Education alumna Janice Jackson was selected as the Teacher of the Year at Brown’s Mill Elementary School in Lithonia, Ga. She is a graduate of the School Library Media program.

College of Education alumna Debra Malone was selected as the 2017 University of West Georgia Outstanding Alumnus.

Two University of West Georgia Wolves, Alex Armah and Dylan Donahue made school history, being picked in the NFL Draft to play for the Carolina Panthers and New York Jets, respectively.

Former baseball player Artemis Kadkhodaian signed with the LA Angels.

Women’s Golf had four players named to the Women’s Golf Coaches Association’s list of All American Scholars: Lola Uribe, Taylor Sarratt, Franziska Bremm and Layne Carter.

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**Academic Success**

Susana Velez and Southwire Sustainable Business Honors student Taylor McDermott co-authored a paper “Labels: Are they fooling us?” that was accepted for presentation at the International CSR, Sustainability, Ethics and Governance Conference.

Leanne DeFoor was named 2017 Student Government Association Business Faculty Member of the Year and University of West Georgia Student Organization Advisor of the Year.

At this year’s Beta Gamma Sigma ceremony, there was a tie for Professor of the Year. Dr. Beheruz Sethna and Dr. Linxiao Liu were each named Professors of the Year for 2017.

Cheryl Brown’s course Marketing 4861 Services Marketing met Quality Matters review expectations. In order to meet Quality Matters review expectations using the Fifth Edition, 2014 QM Rubric, a course must meet each of the 21 essential standards.
Kim Holder, lecturer of economics and director of Center for Economic Education, was named Best of the West Employee of the Year.

The College of Education’s Counselor Education Program was the University of West Georgia Excellence in Teaching Program Award Winner and Nominee for the Regents’ Award.

The Ed.D School Improvement program was selected as a member of the prestigious Carnegie Project on the Education Doctorate Consortium.

Dr. Adrianna d’Alba was awarded the University of West Georgia Excellence Award for Online Teaching and the Regents’ nominee.

Dr. Ben DeMayo was issued a U.S. patent on his method and device for extraction of liquids from a solid particle material. Funds from the Georgia Space Grant Consortium made this possible.

Dr. Sharmistha Basu-Dutt and Dr. Gail Marshall received a Teacher Quality Grant from the University of Georgia. It will be used to host a science workshop for teachers from Fulton, Coweta and Douglas counties.

Danilo Baylen and Joe Hendricks received the Improving Teacher Quality Grant to be used to host a workshop targeting Title One schools with low science scores on the Georgia Milestone.

College of Education Advisor Sabra Broome was selected as the Staff Advisor of the Year by University of West Georgia’s Professional Association of Academic Advisors.

**Partnership Success**

Simone Lee, lecturer in marketing, graduated from the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce’s Leadership Academy, a 12-week professional development program. She was also elected by the participants to speak at the graduation ceremony.

The University of West Georgia and West Georgia Technical College recently signed an articulation agreement allowing students to transfer credits from one institution to another in the pursuit of a bachelor’s degree in psychology.

The University of West Georgia participated in the Carrollton-Carroll County Educational Collaborative Regional Summit. Keynote speakers were USG Chancellor Dr. Steve Wrigley and Technical College System of Georgia Commissioner Gretchen Corbin.
The University of West Georgia and West Georgia Technical College have partnered in the West in 30 program where students who don’t meet entrance requirements can attend WGTC for as few as 24 credit hours and then transfer to UGW.

The University of West Georgia’s DineWest program has entered into a partnership with Carrollton High School to create a local Project SEARCH program, where student interns with developmental disabilities will be taught vocational skills.

Operational Success

The University Police Department hired four new officers in its efforts to provide continued safety and security to the campus. The expanded force will allow the university to enhance its Protect Our Pack commitment to campus security.

The University of West Georgia is ranked 8th on the 2017 Most Affordable Online College for Early Childhood Education. This set of rankings represents online schools across the nation that are making an effort to provide economical options for students seeking a variety of education-based degrees.

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