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 2019

ACADEMIC SUCCESS

• The master’s degree program in early childhood education in the College of Education (COE) has been featured as one of the best master’s degree programs in that field on TheBestSchools.org for 2019. This year, the site reviewed all accredited online degree programs in the U.S. to select the top 30 programs in the nation. UWG was listed No. 21.

• Dr. Susana Velez-Castrillon, an associate professor in the Richards College of Business, recently presented the paper “Ethnic Supermarkets as Oasis in Food Deserts: What Are the Barriers to Access?” at the 31st annual Conference of the International Academy Disciplines in Jacksonville, Florida.

• DeGruyter Publishing selected an article written by Dr. Kelly Dyar, an assistant professor in the Tanner Health System School of Nursing (THSSON), as a featured story on its science discoveries website.

• Dr. Gelareh “Ellie” Towhidi, an assistant professor in the Richards College of Business, recently presented her paper “Designing an e-Commerce Website to Increase Customer Repurchase Intention Based on Cultural Market Segmentation” at the International Academy of Business Disciplines Annual Conference.
Kirsten Pitcock, a graduate of the professional counseling program for college student affairs in COE, received the 2019 Excellence in Advising award from the University of Tennessee, bestowed by the Office of the Chancellor and the Teaching Council of the Faculty Senate. Pitcock currently serves as an academic adviser for the departments of English and history at the University of Tennessee.

Breanna Lee, an alumna of the school library media program in the COE, was named the Bartow County Media Specialist of the Year for 2018-19. She is the media specialist at Adairsville Middle School.

Cortina Harris, a COE graduate from the Educational Leadership Specialist program, was recently named the new principal for Alcova Elementary School. She worked in the classroom for 13 years and has been in administration for nine years.

Multiple COE alumni have been appointed as new administrators in the Carroll County School System: Cameron Tysver, director of exceptional children services; Kelly Edwards, principal of Roopville Elementary School; Courtney Rogers, principal of Temple Elementary School; David Clay, principal of Temple Middle School; and Landon Odom, principal of Mount Zion High School.

Reshawndra Hutchins, a doctoral student in the school improvement program in the COE, was recently accepted into the Society for Science and the Public’s 2019-20 Advocate Grant Program. She was one of 300 applicants and one of 60 chosen to be an advocate. The program seeks to empower adult mentors to transition underserved middle and high school students from conducting scientific or engineering research to completing applications for science research competitions. Many students from these low-income and underrepresented populations go on to post-secondary studies in a STEM field.
• Tricia Durrough, assistant director of the Center for Business Excellence, and Kate Belliveau, a training coordinator in the center, served as co-presenters at the 2019 SkillSoft Perspectives Conference for their efforts on the implementation, development and expansion of SkillSoft (also known as DevelopWest) at UWG. In celebrating its fifth year on campus, DevelopWest serves the institution as an e-learning platform for professional development, business process trainings, and mandatory compliance training for faculty, staff, and student employees. Since its inception, the volume of resources (books, courses, trainings, etc.) launched has increased from 9,700 in 2015 to more than 23,500 in 2018.

• Todd Anduze, director of the University of Georgia Small Business Development Center at UWG, recently won the prestigious Fluellen Award (again) at the annual Georgia SBDC Conference this year. Jane Smith, departmental assistant for the UGA SBDC at UWG, also won Support Staff of the Year at the conference.