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 2017

Student Success

Kathleen Barrett, a lecturer in the College of Social Sciences (COSS), assisted the Political Science Club in organizing Discussion in Politics, an open event that allowed four different political representatives to discuss their views on important issues of the day.

Lauren Cook, COE alumna and a teacher at Arbor Station Elementary School in Douglasville, Ga., recently was named 2017-2018 Douglas County Teacher of the Year.

A record number of nearly 900 undergraduate and graduate degrees were conferred for the fall 2017 semester. It was the first fall commencement to include two separate ceremonies, a practice formerly reserved only for spring commencement.

The Huffington Post recently published "On Raising a Rainbow," an article written by COSS student Yeme Thomas about proposed changes in the nation’s income tax system.

Roxanne Purcell, COE alumna and a mathematics teacher at Turner Middle School in Lithia Springs, Ga., recently was named 2017-2018 Middle School Teacher of the Year for Douglas County.
UWG was well represented at the annual conference of the Southern Criminal Justice Association held in New Orleans, La., where several COSS graduate students showcased their unlimited potential by presenting their research. Those who attended were Tyler McArthur, Erica Jackson, Shajuana Thomas, Sierra Bell, Connor Bell, Cierra Oduka, Sergina Riboul and Koryn Valliere.

Seeking to assist area food banks, students from the RCOB competed in annual Cans for a Cause food drive. Each year, the college hosts the contest between business clubs, encouraging students to bring the most cans. This year, students collected 710 cans, which were delivered to the Carroll County Soup Kitchen.

College of Arts and Humanities (COAH) student Lance Holmes received the Benjamin Gilman Scholarship to support his participation in UWG’s exchange program with Sophia University in Tokyo next spring. The Gilman is a competitive national scholarship program designed to support students interested in an immersive study abroad experience. Holmes will be studying Japanese language and art during his semester abroad.

COAH and COE alumnus John Garner, a government and civics teacher at Newnan High School in Newnan, Ga., recently was named Georgia Teacher of the Year by the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He will represent Georgia at the national competition.

Ally Merchant, a COE alumna and teacher at Huddleston Elementary School in Peachtree City, Ga., recently was named Huddleston Elementary Teacher of the Year.

**Academic Success**

Dr. Beheruz Sethna, professor of marketing in the Richards College of Business, presented "Why Students' Research and Creative Work Are Relevant in a Rapidly Changing Society" as the keynote speaker at the Sixth Annual Southeast Preeminent Research and Creative Endeavors Conference at Georgia College and State University.

College of Science and Mathematics Associate Dean Dr. Greg Payne recently received two grants. The first was a sub-award granted by the United States Department of Agriculture through Texas A&M. Payne’s portion of the award was $38,986. The second grant was a renewal of Payne’s grant with the Cotton Commission for an additional $20,000. This is the 10th consecutive year that Payne has received this grant.
The College of Education (COE) received two UWG Regents’ Teaching in Excellence Awards. Dr. Phyllis Snipes received the 2018 UWG Regents’ Teaching in Excellence Award and was the University System of Georgia (USG) nominee for the Online Teaching Award. COE’s bachelor’s degree in early childhood education was honored with the 2018 UWG Regents’ Teaching in Excellence Award and was the USG nominee for Academic Department/Program Award.

Richards College of Business (RCOB) faculty members Dr. Charles Hodges, finance; Dr. Jon Anderson, management; and Dr. Brad Prince, management information systems, – received Georgia WebMBA Outstanding Faculty of the Year awards this year. Only seven faculty members from across the state received the award, which is voted on by students.

Justin Lindsey, Ed.D, a COE alumnus, received the 2017-2018 Educator of the Year Award at the North Georgia Autism Conference. Lindsey was also chosen to sit on the advisory council for the Anna Shaw Children’s Institute in Dalton, Ga. Lindsey is a student services teacher at Calhoun Middle School in Calhoun, Ga.

COE alumna Jill Buchanan, a teacher at Dorsett Shoals Elementary in Douglasville, Ga., was nominated by a parent in her classroom for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution’s Celebrating Teachers Award which recognizes teachers who go above and beyond to build excellent partnerships between families and schools.

**Partnership Success**

RCOB recently partnered with the People Improvement Organization (PIO) in Cambodia to provide 150 reusable water bottles to school children. The bottles will allow children continued access to clean water when they leave school for the day. The PIO serves more than 1,500 economically disadvantaged children with free education, food, healthcare, clean water and shelter as well as vocational training for girls and women.

Dr. Stephen Goodson, chairman of the History Department in COAH, served as the keynote speaker for the Veterans Day commemoration at the Carroll County Veterans Memorial Park. Goodson’s presentation, which described the Cold War, was broadcast by local radio station WLBB.
Operational Success

TheBestColleges.org recognized COE's online master's degree in elementary education No. 18 in the nation.

WOLF Internet Radio’s Night Howl program received third-place honors in the Best Audio Regularly Scheduled Programs from College Broadcasters Inc.

Dine West, the University of West Georgia’s internal food service program, contributed $16.6 million to the local economy in its first year, more than double the university’s contribution for the previous year.

UWG has been named a bike-friendly university by the League of American Bicyclists. The university joined 181 other designated institutions in 45 states and Washington, D.C.

COE's master's degree in early childhood education was rated the Eighth Most Affordable Online Degree for early childhood education for 2017 by the SR Education Group.

UWG recently hosted the 31st Midwest Conference on Combinatorics and Combinatorial Computing, attracting participants from Canada, China, Indonesia, Japan, Uganda and United Arab Emirates, as well as from across the United States.

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