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

**Orren Jones**, College of Education student, participated in the COE-sponsored study abroad to Ecuador in the summer of 2017. Jones also graduated this summer and earned her master’s degree in clinical mental health counseling. She submitted some of her photos as a part of the UWG Education Abroad Photo Contest. Her photo submissions were awarded second place in the Local Color and Everyday Life category, first place in the Views and Vistas category and Best in Show.

**Dylan Pelletier**, former graduate student in the department of criminology, was named the managing editor of *Women and Criminal Justice*, a peer-reviewed journal, which is housed at Texas A&M International and published by Taylor and Francis.

**Isabella Torres**, College of Arts and Humanities and Honors College, won the Best Paper in the Arts award at the Georgia Undergraduate Research Conference for her paper "Interpreting Classical Music According to Schleiermacher and Gadamer." She wrote the paper for her philosophy hermeneutics class.

College of Education students **Mary Kate Groninger, Kimberly Strebe, Carson Vaughn** and **Courtney Jones**, health and physical education students, presented on topics such as mental fitness and technology in physical education at the Georgia Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance State Convention.
Dr. Andrew Edelman, associate professor in the College of Science and Mathematics, with Tyler Sprayberry and William Cornelison, COSM graduate students, published "Eastern Spotted Skunks in Alabama" in Alabama Wildlife Federation Magazine.

Laura Boalch, Tanner Health System School of Nursing student, presented research, “Faculty Caring: Nursing Students’ Perspective Using Q-Methodology,” at the International Sigma Theta Tau 44th Biennial Convention in Indianapolis as part of The Rising Stars Research and Scholarship program.

**Academic Success**

Emmanuel Reddish, UWG College of Education alumnus and language arts teacher at Carrollton Junior High School, was recently named Carrollton Junior High Teacher of the Year.

The College of Education’s master of education in reading instruction program has been ranked fifth in the U.S. by AffordableColleges.com. In a review of schools across the nation, UWG’s program stood out in both quality and affordability.

John Upson, associate professor of management for the Richards College of Business, recently received a nomination in Marquis Who’s Who in America.

Dr. David Nickell, associate professor of marketing in the Richard College of Business, had his article, “Creating employees’ motivational paths in the retail trade,” accepted for publication in Cogent Business & Management.

Dr. Jennifer Allen and Dr. Bethany Scullin, assistant professors in literacy and special education in the College of Education, secured a $5,000 grant from the Georgia Department of Education for the Cherokee Rose Writing Project. These funds will be used to facilitate, plan, and present workshops on writing instruction for educators at the Georgia Council for Teachers of English conference in Athens, Ga.

Professor Shelly Elman, chair and professor of theatre, College of Arts and Humanities, attended the Georgia Theatre Conference here at UWG. She was the recipient of its highest honor, the Leighton Ballew Award.
Dr. Natasha Ramsay-Jordan, College of Education faculty member, won the Georgia Association of Teacher Educator’s Dissertation in Teacher Education Award.

The College of Education’s early childhood education master’s degree program was ranked Eighth Most Affordable Online College for early childhood education for 2017 by the SR Education Group.

The College of Education has been ranked third by the SR Education Group for 2018 Most Affordable Online Colleges for its master’s degree in library science. This ranking represents online schools across the nation that are making an effort to provide economical options for students.

The College of Education’s early childhood education program was selected for the Distinguished Program in Teacher Education Award for 2017-2018. This is an annual award sponsored by the Georgia Association of Teacher Educators to recognize and honor outstanding teacher education programs that exemplify excellence in program development and administration.

Dr. Diana Mindrila, associate professor of leadership, research and school improvement in the College of Education, presented at the annual meeting of the Georgia Educational Research Association and received the 2017 Distinguished Paper Award for her paper, Latent Classes of Victimization of U.S. Adolescents.

Dr. Laura Smith, assistant dean and director for the College of Education, Dr. Lama Farran, associate professor and program coordinator of communication sciences and disorders, Dr. Katy Green, assistant professor and area coordinator for the College of Education Dr. Cindy Head, assistant professor for the College of Education and Dr. Twyla Perryman, assistant professor and communication sciences and disorders for the College of Education, received the 2017 Alice Huffard Richards Fund Grant from the Community Foundation of West Georgia. They will apply the $204,604 to the Comprehensive Community Clinics operations and to establish new autism programming.

Nadia Prince-Williams, Tanner Health System School of Nursing alumnus, presented “The Impact of a Structured Palliative Care Program on Unit Readmission Rates” at the International Sigma Theta Tau 44th Biennial Convention in Indianapolis as part of The Rising Stars Research and Scholarship program.

Dr. Kelly Dyar RN, CMN, CN, clinical assistant professor for the Tanner Health System School of Nursing, presented “Phenomenological Exploration of Male Combat Verterans in Baccalaureate Nursing Programs” at the International Sigma Theta Tau 44th Biennial Convention in Indianapolis as part of The Rising Stars Research and Scholarship program.

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The Tanner Health System School of Nursing has been ranked 17th in Value Colleges top 50 Best Value Online MSN Programs.
**Partnership Success**

The College of Education faculty and students in early childhood education, community wellness and physical education were invited to the **Second Annual Healthy Georgia Awards** at the College Football Hall of Fame because of their continued partnerships and service learning experiences with schools, non-profits and state agencies. The awards were presented by Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle, Georgia Shape and the Georgia Department of Public Health.

Anna Smith and Shanequa Small, health and community wellness students, were recently featured on Carrollton's Community Voice radio program to discuss their service learning project, **Hypertension Education for the Faith-Based Community.**

**Operational Success**

UWG has earned three badges from the **Colleges of Distinction** - Colleges of Distinction – **Business badge**, Colleges of Distinction – **Education badge**, and Colleges of Distinction – **Nursing badge**. UWG is one of three public institutions in Georgia to achieve this recognition. These badges are available to schools with first-rate programs and recognized professional accreditations in select fields.

Brian McCrary and Jan Cooke, ITS Client Services Department, attended the 2017 Special Interest Group on University and College Computing Services conference (SIGUCCS) in Seattle. SIGUCCS is a special interest group under the Association Computing Machinery (ACM). Their presentation, "Organizing IT for Service Delivery" focuses on improving the IT customer experience.

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