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.

September and October 2018

Academic Success

Bridgette Stewart, senior lecturer in the College of Education, was recently named a 2018 Circle of Leadership inductee with the National Wellness institute (NWI). In this new opportunity, Stewart will serve as an ambassador for NWI, its programs, and assist in spreading the message of wellness throughout the globe.

Both the School Improvement and Professional Counseling and Supervision doctoral programs in COE were named as top in the nation for Best Online Doctoral Programs by Online-PhD-Degrees.com.

Dr. Minna Rollins, an associate professor in the Richards College of Business Department of Marketing and Real Estate, has been selected for the 2018 Best Reviewer Award for the Journal of Marketing Theory and Practice. According to the managing editor, “Numerous authors have benefited from your insightful reviews, regardless of whether they ultimately received an acceptance of their manuscript.” Minna has also been invited to join the Editorial Review Board of JMTP.
**Dr. Robert Griffin**, an assistant professor in the Department of Literacy and Special Education in COE, was selected for the **2018 Distinguished Dissertation in Teacher Education Award**, an annual award sponsored by the Georgia Association of Teacher Educators (GATE) to recognize outstanding contributions to research in teacher education. Special recognition will also be extended to Dr. Hema Ramanathan, the professor who directed the research.

**Dr. Susan Webb**, an associate professor in RCOB's Department of Marketing and Real Estate, has had two journal articles accepted for publication. “**Power of Persuasion: The Masterpiece Challenge**” was published in the Business & Professional Communication Quarterly, and “**Factors Influencing Business Education in Community and Technical Colleges**” has been accepted in Business Education Forum.

**Dr. Yan Yang** in the Department of Educational Technology and Foundations in COE received a $10,730 grant from **Affordable Learning Georgia** to transition materials for a course on a platform at little to no cost to students.

An article written by **Dr. Lizhong Peng**, assistant professor in RCOB, "**Participation in school-sponsored sports and academic spillovers: new evidence from the early childhood longitudinal survey,**" has been published in Applied Economics.

**Partnership Success**

**John Garner**, a two-time alumnus of UWG, was awarded the **2018 Gwen Hutcheson Outstanding Educator Award** for excellence in teaching. Garner, an alumnus of the College of Arts and Humanities and COE, is in his 10th year of teaching.

COE alumna **Becky Thomas-Hagen** was awarded the **Georgia Pre-K Teacher of the Year** in Harris County by Sandra Deal, the first lady of Georgia. Along with the award, she received a financial contribution for a complete classroom makeover. Thomas-Hagen has been teaching at Mulberry Creek Elementary School for the past 18 years.
Katie Morris, COE alumna, was recently named the 2018 Teacher of the Year for Freedom Middle School located in Canton, Georgia.

RCOB Board of Advisors member and RCOB alumnus Fred O'Neal recently achieved a milestone in Edward Jones by becoming the first African-American in the firm's 137-year history to serve as an adviser for 30 years. His work with Edward Jones is so significant the company has created the Fred O’Neal Legacy Award named in his honor to recognize service and dedication to a diverse adviser.

**Student Success**

Kellie Patterson, a world history teacher at Villa Rica High School who's currently working toward a master’s degree in history in COAH, was named Georgia's only alternate for the James Madison Memorial Fellowship, a prestigious national fellowship whose mission is to encourage the study of the U.S. Constitution.

Ethan Brown, a management graduate from the RCOB, was selected to received the Serge Bellanger French-American Business Scholarship from the French-American Chamber of Commerce in New York. This is a highly selective scholarship, one of the few that fund American students pursuing MBAs in France.

**Operational Success**

The fifth annual Presidential Scholarship Gala brought together nearly 300 community, business and educational leaders to raise more than $122,000 to support need-based scholarships. The theme of the event – “An Enchanted Evening” – reflected the fairy-tale theme of Homecoming 2018, “Once Upon a UWG.”
UWG received top honors from INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine with receipt of the 2018 Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award. The award, open to all colleges and universities across the U.S. and Canada, measures an institution’s level of achievement and commitment to broadening diversity and inclusion on campus through initiatives, programs and outreach; student recruitment, retention and completion; and hiring practices for faculty and staff.

University stakeholders gathered for the official grand opening of its Biology Building expansion and renovation, hosting campus, community and valued partners for a celebratory reception followed by a tour of the enhanced learning center. The grand opening represents a major renovation and expansion effort that began in 2017, adding nearly 18,000 square feet to the facility originally built in 1972. The updated 90,000-square-foot building is now home to a state-of-the-art, technology-enhanced learning environment.

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