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 2019

ACADEMIC SUCCESS

• Intelligent.com ranked eight UWG programs in its nationwide 2020 rankings of degree programs. The rankings are based on an assessment of 1,604 accredited colleges and universities. Each program is evaluated based on curriculum quality, graduation rate, reputation and post-graduate employment. Programs ranked at UWG are: master's in music education; master's in applied computer science; bachelor's in criminology; bachelor's in marketing; doctorate in school improvement; bachelor’s in accounting; and master's in early childhood education.

• Richards College of Business WebMBA faculty recently won four of the seven teaching awards given by the WebMBA program. Drs. Charles Hodges, Brad Prince and Sharon Seay were selected for the awards based on student recommendations and feedback.

• Drs. Matt and Mary Alice Varga, both of the College of Education (COE), were recently interviewed by OnlineEdDPrograms.com about two of the college's online programs, highlighting the strengths of the programs for prospective students.

• Kim Holder, lecturer in the Department of Economics in the Richards College of Business, was named the 2019 Woman of the Year by the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce’s Women’s Business Alliance. Holder will also receive the 2020 Abbejean Kehler Technology Award from the National Association of Economic Educators in February at the association’s annual conference.
• UWG ranked No. 7 in Study.com’s 2020 rankings of the best online schools in Georgia. The ranking is based on academic and career resources for online students, the quality of education and other criteria.

• Dr. Logan Arrington, assistant professor in the Department of Educational Technology and Foundations in COE, was recognized as one of UWG’s “Thriving Under 30” Alumni Award.

• Jennifer Heidorn, an instructor in the Department of Sport Management, Wellness, and Physical Education in COE, is the recipient of the Robert W. Moore Professional Recognition Award from the Georgia Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance.

• “Back to the front: Archaeological resources and the planning process,” a new article written by Nathan Lawres and Andrew Carter (pictured at left) – both of Department of Anthropology in the College of Social Sciences – was published in the journal “Environmental Practice.”

• Dr. Jeannie Pridmore, associate professor in the Richards College of Business, was recognized by the UWG Academic Recognition Day Scholars for her outstanding work with UWG students. This recognition was held during a special ceremony at halftime during the UWG football game versus Valdosta State.

• Dr. Melissa Johnston, associate professor of School Library Media in COE, is the newly appointed chair for the Special Interest Group on “School Library Research” with the International Association of School Librarianship.

• An article by Dr. John Upson, professor, and Dr. Kim Green, associate professor – both of the Richards College of Business – titled “Boxing or Golfing: A View of Small Business Competition” has been accepted for publication in the “Journal of Small Business & Entrepreneurship.”

• Dr. Lisa Robinson, associate professor, and Charles Akin, instructional designer – both of the Tanner Health System School of Nursing – recently presented “Collaborative Partnerships: Supporting Students’ Success with Educational Technology” at the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing 45th Biennial Convention.
• Amanda Wright, assistant director of community engagement, recently graduated from the Georgia Academy for Economic Development. The Academy provided each of the graduates an opportunity to gain a unique understanding of the complexities of economic and community development on the local, regional, and state levels.

• Ineke Abunawass, environmental and safety coordinator in Campus Planning and Facilities, recently received her credentials as certified hazardous materials manager.

• Colton Campbell, director of strategic communications in University Communications and Marketing, presented during the 2019 Georgia Education Advancement Council annual conference. Campbell’s presentation, “What It Means to Go West (Again):Aligning Communications in a Refreshed Brand,” was co-written by Jami Bower, associate vice president of communications and marketing.

• Maria Shurant, insurance and life safety manager in Campus Planning and Facilities, recently completed a 40-hour property and casualty insurance course.

STUDENT SUCCESS

• Sociology majors Arkia Ivey and Rebecca Mitchell have been awarded Benjamin Gilman Scholarships to participate in the department’s study abroad program in Morocco this coming summer. The Gilman Scholarship Program is a competitive national award for Pell grant recipients pursuing an immersive study abroad program.

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