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!

August 2019

ACADEMIC SUCCESS

• Two Tanner Health System School of Nursing (THSSON) professors, Shelly Crager and Dr. Kelly Dyar, pictured below, were recently presented with the DAISY Foundation’s Award for Extraordinary Nursing Faculty. The DAISY Award is presented to faculty who are not only dedicated to teaching their students but also exemplify compassionate care. This is something THSSON at UWG holds at high importance.

• The online master’s degree in public administration (MPA) in the College of Social Sciences has been ranked No. 9 in the nation by AffordableSchools.net. Taken into account were the average cost of attendance and the student-to-faculty ratio in each of the top 25 programs.

• Dr. Julia Whisenhunt, associate professor of counselor education in the College of Education, was featuring in an article published by “Counseling Today” discussing the complexities of suicidal ideation and current perceptions of the issue.

• THSSON was identified as offering a top online nursing education master’s degree program in a recent ranking by TopEducationDegrees.org, ranking the UWG program No. 14 out of 20 universities chosen nationwide. The ranking considered U.S. News and World Report rankings, the student-to-faculty ratio, cost per credit hour and accreditations.
• Dr. Kevin Hibbard, Department of Music chair in COAH, was a chorus member in a performance of the Mozart Coronation Mass at the Madeleine Church in Paris, France, in June 2019.

• Dr. James J. Dillon, a professor of psychology in COSS, had his article, “Reassembling the Real Person: A Jungian and Mythical-Dramatistic Approach to Human Development” published in the fall issue of The Journal of Humanistic Psychology. The article recasts Carl Jung’s process of individuation in “mythical-dramatistic” terms in which human development is seen as an exciting story of a trapped and disintegrated “cosmic person” who struggles to reassemble him or herself in us over time.

• Dr. Dawn Neely and her chamber group, the Druid City Chamber Ensemble, were invited to perform a half recital at the National Harp Society’s Summer Institute in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Dr. Neely is an associate professor of voice and director of opera workshop in the Department of Music in COAH.

• Dr. Rachel Tullis, assistant professor of special education in COE, has received a $75,000 sub-award with Georgia State University, as well as $31,750 awarded from the Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities. Both awards will benefit Project WOLVES, UWG’s inclusive post-secondary education program.

• An article written by Dr. Jack Wei, professor of marketing in the Richards College of Business, titled “Does Micro-Blogging Lead to a More Positive Attitude Toward a Brand? A Perspective of Cultivation Theory,” has been accepted for publication in the “Journal of Promotion Management.”

• Dr. Rosemary Kellison’s “Expanding Responsibility for the Just War: A Feminist Critique” was published by the Cambridge University Press. The book employs a feminist ethical approach to analyze how we do and do not assign and accept moral responsibility for causing harm to noncombatants in modern war. Kellison is an associate professor of philosophy and religion and serves as the program director of philosophy in COAH.

• An article written by Dr. David Nickell, associate professor of marketing in the Richards College of Business, titled “An Attitudinal Approach to Determining Sponsorship ROI,” has been accepted for publication in “Marketing Intelligence and Planning.”
• Dr. Gregory Fraser’s poem “Business” appeared in the May 27, 2019, issue of “The New Yorker.” Fraser is a professor of English in COAH.

• Dr. Peter Stoepker, assistant professor of health and physical education in COE, has been named one of eight national experts on the Emerging Leaders Innovation Team (ELIT) for SHAPE America. ELIT is designed to help SHAPE American strengthen its recruitment, retention, and engagement of emerging leaders who are currently young professionals teaching physical education and/or skills-based health education.

• The Journal of Nursing Education and Practice has accepted for publication an article written by THSSON’s Dr. Amy Yarbrough titled “The Process by Which Nursing Faculty Make Reasonable Academic Accommodations for Students with Learning Disabilities in the Classroom Setting: A Scoping Review.”

• “Nobody’s Darling” – a film written and directed by Robyn Hicks, an assistant professor of mass communications in COSS – won Best Short Film and Best Lead Actress at the 2019 Women in Film and Television Association’s ConFab Short Film and Talent Showcase in Atlanta.

• Artemis Preeshl, instructor of theatre in COAH, has written a new book, published by Routledge and titled “Reframing Acting in the Digital Age: Nimbly Scaling Actor Training in the Academy.”

• Alan Yeong-Marcello, a professor of theatre in COAH, was nominated for a Suzi Bass Award for Outstanding Costume Design for his work on the musical “Titanic” at Serenbe Playhouse.

• Dr. Tori Ivy, assistant professor of health and physical education in COE, received the Young Scholar Award from the International Association for Physical Education in Higher Education.
PARTNERSHIP SUCCESS

• Tom Gilliam, a UWG alumnus who earned a degree in sport management from COE, was recently named the new director of parks and recreation for the city of Cartersville, Georgia.

STUDENT SUCCESS

• Khady Lo, a UWG student double-majoring in biology in COSM and French in COAH, has been awarded a Benjamin Gilman Scholarship to support her participation in UWG’s exchange program with the University of Tours in France. Lo will be spending a semester in France taking classes and completing research. The Gilman Scholarship is a competitive national award sponsored by the U.S. Department of State.

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