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!

July 2019

OPERATIONAL SUCCESS

- Seven UWG staff members (pictured below) recently completed the College Business Management Institute (CBMI). Wade Crenshaw (Parking Services), Yolanda Kelley (College of Education), Estella Tolson-Cox (Office of the Controller), Erin Brannon (College of Social Sciences), Thad Dooley (Auxiliary Services), Scott Puckett (Budget Services) and Caroline McWhorter (Ingram Library - not pictured) were among more than 500 business officers and administrators, representing hundreds of colleges and universities of every size and description, attending this year. CBMI is designed to provide participants with an overview of current issues and procedures applicable to institutions of higher education large and small, public and private.

- Dr. Lisa Connell and Claire Ezekiel from the Department of International Languages and Cultures in the College of Arts and Humanities (COAH) won a $4,000 Affordable Learning grant. Their project involves developing an extensive set of ancillary materials and an online homework platform for the French program’s new open-source textbook. The work completed through this grant will lower costs significantly for students in the elementary and intermediate language sequences.
• Chasity Brunache, a graduate of the COE's Master's of Arts in Teaching in Music Education program, has been named the 2019 Teacher of the Year at Summerville Middle School.

• Ariel Dannielle, who received her bachelor's degree in fine arts with a concentration in painting in COAH, was selected as one of three 2019-20 Working Artist Project Winners at the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA Ga) in Atlanta.

• Matt Gibson, a COE alumnus with a master’s degree in middle grades science education, has been named the new principal of Cartersville Middle School.

• A story on Meghen Bassel, a student in COE's school library media specialist program, was featured on the homepage of the Council of Graduate Studies website. As media specialist at South Salem Elementary, Bassel is the handler of Booker T. Pug, a reading therapy dog.
• Dr. Christopher Jett, associate professor of mathematics in COSM, received a Presidential Award for Early Career Scientists and Engineers (PECASE) in Washington, D.C. This award is the highest honor bestowed upon early career faculty by the U.S. government for advancing their independent research careers. Dr. Jett was nominated by colleagues from the National Science Foundation, and he was selected because of his fundamental research in the field of mathematics education and for his extraordinary potential for STEM leadership on a national scale.

• A book written by Dr. Patrick Erben, professor of English in COAH, titled “The Francis Daniel Pastorius Reader, Writings by an Early American Polymath” was published by the Penn State Press.

• Dr. John Upson, associate professor in the Department of Management in the Richards College of Business, serves as a member of the International Scientific Advisory Committee at Ecole de Management de Normandie in France. After the group’s meeting this year, he presented “The Competitive Dynamics of Small Business” to EMN’s Entrepreneurial Axis and led a discussion on building proprietary data sets and working with international colleagues.

• Three faculty members in COAH earned accolades in the 2019 Decatur Arts Exhibition, held at the Dalton Gallery at Agnes Scott College. Casey McGuire, associate professor of sculpture, and Mark Schoon, associate professor of photography, won the first-place award for their collaborative piece titled “Comet 67P Churyumov–Gerasimenk,” and Erin Dixon, lecturer of painting, won the third-place award for her artwork, titled “Some Important Matters to Attend To.”

• Dr. Dena Kniess, assistant professor of counselor education and college student affairs in COE, was named an associate editor of the “College Student Affairs Journal” published by the Southern Association for College Student Affairs.

• Dr. Laura Miller, associate professor in the Department of English in COAH, is co-investigator on a $1.2 million program titled “Libraries, Reading Communities and Cultural Formation in the Eighteenth-Century Atlantic,” which runs from October 2019 through 2022 and is funded by the Arts & Humanities Research Council.
• Dr. William “Joey” Smith, professor and chair of the Department of Economics in the Richards College of Business, has been appointed by Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp to the Georgia State Board of Economic Advisors.

• Dr. Yvonne Fuentes, associate professor of Spanish in the Department of International Languages and Cultures in COAH, traveled to Edinburgh, Scotland, to present at the 15th International Congress on the Enlightenment. She presented a paper and organized two panels on “Peripheral Identities in the Hispanic World.”

• Dr. Larry Schor, professor of psychology in COSS, was named Georgia Counselor Educator of the Year by the Licensed Professional Counselors Association of Georgia at their annual convention in Savannah, Georgia. Schor also serves as ethics co-chair for the Licensed Professional Counselors Association of Georgia.

• Dr. Ann McCleary, professor of history in COAH, has been named the state scholar for the traveling exhibition “Crossroads: Change in Rural America”. The exhibit is part of the Museum on Mainstreet, and is a production of the Smithsonian Institution in cooperation with Georgia Humanities, the Center for Public History at the University of West Georgia, Georgia EMC, and the Georgia Department of Economic Development.

• Dr. Susana Velez-Castrillon, associate professor of management in the Richards College of Business, was invited by the World Affairs Council of Atlanta (WACA) to moderate the panel “Adventure or Adversity: Working as an Expat in the US and Abroad,” featuring three high-ranking officials at Porsche Cars North America, YER USA, and Booking.com.

• Dr. Molly McCullers, associate professor of history in COAH, attended the Association of American Colleges & Universities 2019 Institute on Integrative Learning and Signature Work in July as part of a team from UWG. The UWG attendees will work to assess the state of capstones across campus, hold workshops and reading groups for faculty, and seek to ensure that every UWG student graduates with a high-quality culminating experience.

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