ACADEMIC HONORS CONVOCATION

APRIL 23, 2024 | 5:30 PM | TOWNSEND CENTER
ACADEMIC HONORS CONVOCATION

For over five decades, The University of West Georgia has recognized the achievements of its superior students in a variety of ways. From 1964 to 1970, at Parent’s Day, students and faculty convened, the latter in academic regalia. From 1971 to 1975, this assembly was termed the Honors Convocation. A luncheon replaced the Convocation from 1976 through 1985. The Honors Convocation was reestablished in 1986. Though the form has varied on these occasions, the University has consistently hosted noted speakers, among them former Governor Carl Sanders, consumer advocate Ralph Nader, the late Georgia Secretary of State Ben Forston, former Chancellors of the University System of Georgia Dr. Stephen R. Portch and Dr. H. Dean Propst, and Emory University Eleonore Raol Professor of the Humanities Dr. Elizabeth Fox-Genovese. This year, we are honored that faculty and students in the Music and Theatre Programs of the University of West Georgia will perform. We have performances by the UWG Chamber Singers, led by Dr. Karen Graffius and the UWG Theatre Department will present, “A Brand New Day in New Jersey,” from Joe DiPietro’s The Toxic Avenger.

The Honors College at the University of West Georgia was initiated as an Honors Program in Spring 1975. It was elevated to Honors College by the Board of Regents in June 1999. It seeks to provide intellectually gifted students an educational experience commensurate with their abilities. The University is affiliated with the Georgia Collegiate Honors Council, the Southern Regional Collegiate Honors Council, and the National Collegiate Honors Council. Supported by the faculty and administration of the four colleges of the university, the School of Nursing, the School of Communication, Film and Media, and the Library, and organized by the Honors College.

FACULTY MARSHAL
Dr. Kathleen Morales

MACE BEARER
Dr. Lisa Connell
PROGRAM

WELCOME RECEPTION
Piano Performance: “Eleven” by UWG Student, Adrian Smith

Processional: Festive Overture ........................................... Dmitri Shostakovich
*Previously Recorded by the UWG Wind Ensemble - Josh Byrd, conductor*

Welcome ................................................................. Dr. Brendan Kelly
*University President*

THEATRE PERFORMANCE:
“A Brand New Day in New Jersey,” from The Toxic Avenger, Book and Lyrics by Joe DiPietro,
Music and Lyrics by David Bryan

Directed by Shelly Elman, Music Direction by Dawn Neely, Accompaniment by Sarah Elias,
Costumes Designed by Rachael Karas

CAST
Toxie ................................................................. Jared Bathurst
Sarah ................................................................. Valeria Lee
Ma ................................................................. Ellie Castillo-Nunez
Black Dude ........................................................ Jamiyah Smith
White Dude ...................................................... Isaiah Sargent
Nun ................................................................. Lauren Weller

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS:
Special Awards .................. Dr. Karen Owen, Dean of University College & Honors College
Haylee Milligan, Co-President, Student Honors Council

MUSIC PRESENTATION:
Performances by The UWG Chamber Singers, Karen Graffius, conductor
“Rise, and Journey On” by UWG Student, Christopher Lewis

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS:
Presentation of Academic Awards .................. Dr. Brendan Kelly, University President
Dr. Jon Preston, Provost & Senior Vice President
Dr. Michael Hester

MUSIC PERFORMANCE:
Performance by UWG Student, Jude Marier, Horn & Dr. Sarah Elias, Piano
“Alla Caccia” by A. Abbott

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS:
Presentation of Academic Awards .................. Dr. Brendan Kelly, University President
Dr. Jon Preston, Provost & Senior Vice President
Dr. Michael Hester

Closing Remarks .................. Dr. Brendan Kelly, University President

Recessional: Lincolnshire Posy, Movement VI ........................................ Percy Grainger
*Previously Recorded by the UWG Wind Ensemble - Josh Byrd, conductor*
SPECIAL AWARDS

Undergraduate Research Faculty Mentor Award
The Undergraduate Research Faculty Mentor Award is presented to a faculty member with a strong record of having supported undergraduate research or creative activity, someone who has strived to develop and enhance a culture of undergraduate scholarship here at the University of West Georgia.

Recipient ................................................................. Dr. Mautusi Mitra

Dr. Donald R. Wagner Honors Faculty of the Year Award
Every year Honors College students nominate and vote on a professor to receive the Dr. Donald R. Wagner Honors Faculty of the Year Award.

Recipient ................................................................. Dr. Ryan Currier

UNIVERSITY AWARDS

Beheruz N. Sethna Undergraduate Research Award
During his time as President, Dr. Sethna’s commitment to and support of undergraduate research was instrumental to UWG’s national renown in student research. He not only emphasized undergraduate research at UWG, but even personally mentored students in his classes for research projects and chaperoned them while traveling to conferences. To commemorate his efforts, the Beheruz N. Sethna Undergraduate Research award recognizes outstanding achievement in the area of undergraduate research.

Recipient ................................................................. Marissa Keeler

Outstanding Honors College Student of the Year
Each year an Outstanding Honors student is selected by the Honors College Committee. The selection is based on an overall GPA of at least 3.2, participation in Honors courses and service to the Honors Program.

Recipient ................................................................. Cole Fisher

Academic Recognition Day Scholar
Academic Recognition Day was begun in 1987 as a celebration of individual academic achievement and in recognition of those students who exemplify that which is best about the University System of Georgia and its institutions--reverence for the things of the mind as evidenced by inspired and dedicated teaching and excellence in learning. Annually, each of the thirty-four institutions in the University System of Georgia is asked to select one student as its representative for this honor, awarded by the Board of Regents and the Georgia Legislature. The student chosen must be representative of outstanding scholastic achievement on his or her campus, have a GPA of 4.0 or very close to it, be an undergraduate, and be a resident of Georgia. Nominations are made by the academic departments to the Honors College Dean, who reviews the academic and University service record of each nominee.

Recipient ................................................................. Malia Pope
ACADEMIC AWARDS I

Awards of Excellence
These awards are presented annually to the senior BSN pre-licensure students from the Newnan and Carrollton cohorts, and the senior RN-BSN student who best demonstrates excellence in Nursing. The recipients are chosen based on significant achievement in academic excellence, leadership, clinical nursing practice and service to the university or the community.

BSN Newnan ................................................................. Noah Robins
BSN Carrollton ............................................................. Noah Seagle
RN-to-BSN Excellence Award ........................................ Kimberly Fulmer

These awards are presented annually to the outstanding students from academic disciplines in the Richards College of Business. Recipients must have a declared major in the field of the award, superior academic achievement, demonstrated leadership ability, potential for development in the respective academic discipline and active involvement in extracurricular activities.

Accounting ................................................................. Mikayla Stockett
Finance ................................................................. Beau Goff
Marketing ................................................................. Jacey Coleman
Management Information Systems ............................... Andrew Gooch
Data Intelligence and Business Analytics ......................... Charles Tull

The Award of Excellence in Physics/Astronomy Research is presented annually by the physics faculty to the student who has demonstrated excellence in performing and presenting research in Physics or Astronomy. Presenting research may be represented by presentations or publications at the state, national, or international level.

Physics/Astronomy Research ........................................ Megan Gorman

The James Emory Boyd Awards
These awards are presented annually to the outstanding students from academic disciplines in the Natural Sciences and Mathematics. Each recipient is selected by the faculty of the particular department and must have demonstrated leadership ability and potential for accomplishment in the respective academic discipline. The award is given in honor of James Emory Boyd, President of the former West Georgia College from 1961 until 1971, who was himself a physicist and guided the college during a period in which the science department grew and developed significantly.

Chemistry ................................................................. Jacob Miller
Geology ................................................................. Ethan Askin
Computer Science .................................................... Aaron Hanson & Steven Kight
Physics ................................................................. Mason Caron

The Outstanding Senior in Biology Faculty Award
The Outstanding Senior in Biology Faculty Award is presented annually by the Biology Faculty to the senior who has demonstrated the highest standards of excellence in her/his career at the University of West Georgia, including performance in course work, research, and participation in the activities of the Biology Department.

Recipient ................................................................. Autumn Sellars
The American Institute of Chemists Award
This award is presented to an outstanding senior student majoring in chemistry, chemical engineering, or biochemistry in recognition of a demonstrated record of leadership ability, character, scholastic achievement, and advancement potential in the chemical professions, and was nominated by the chemistry faculty.

Recipient ................................................................. Parker Smitherman

Marion Crider Awards
In honor of Marion Crider, a dedicated, caring and enthusiastic professor of mathematics who served at the university for 23 years, and who also served as a department chairperson, the Department of Mathematics presents three annual monetary awards to juniors or seniors in recognition of academic excellence, leadership and the potential for success in the field of mathematics. Friends, family, colleagues and alumni established the monetary fund that supports these superior student awards as a memorial to Professor Crider.

Recipients .............................................. Keanna Jackson, Josiah Jorek, & Daisy Lugo

The Tom Herndon Awards
These awards are presented annually to the outstanding students from academic disciplines in the Social Sciences. Recipients must have a declared major in the field of the award, superior academic achievement, demonstrated leadership ability, potential for development in the respective academic discipline and active involvement in extracurricular activities. The award was established in 1953 by friends and classmates in memory of the late Thomas A. Herndon, Jr., a graduate of the class of 1939.

Geography................................................................. Gwendolyn Jabat
Criminology.............................................................. Zoey Andrews
Sociology................................................................. Haylee Milligan
Economics.............................................................. Luna Mouton & Ta’Shaun Bryant
History................................................................. Richard Ables
Political Science...................................................... Chase Williams
Psychology............................................................. Daisy Rowser-Grier

The Carole E. Hill Award in Anthropology
The Carole E. Hill Award is presented annually to the senior Anthropology student who demonstrates the greatest potential for success in his or her pursuit of an advanced degree in anthropology following graduation from the University of West Georgia.

Recipient ............................................................. Kendall Ussery

The Waring Distinguished Scholar Award
The Waring Distinguished Scholar Award is awarded annually to the senior undergraduate student who has repeatedly earned distinction from the Antonio J. Waring, Jr. Scholarship Fund over the course of their studies as an anthropology major at University of West Georgia. This student is well-rounded and has shown excellence in coursework, research, and scholarly presentation.

Recipient ............................................................. Joel Edmondson
ACADEMIC AWARDS II

The Gordon Watson Awards
These awards are presented annually to the outstanding students from academic disciplines in the humanities. Recipients must have a declared major in the field of the award, superior academic achievement, demonstrated leadership ability, potential for development in the respective academic discipline and active involvement in extracurricular activities. The award was established in memory of the late Bailey Gordon Watson, first head of the English Department at the University of West Georgia.

Art ........................................................... Rachel Christiansen
English ......................................................... Karen Rodas
Philosophy .................................................... De’janae Glass
Foreign Language - French ............................... Hannah Lewis
Foreign Language - German ............................. Phoebe Huckabay
Foreign Language - Spanish ............................. Madison Renardel de Lavalette
Mass Communications ................................... Gianna Willcox
Theatre Arts .................................................. Katelyn Adams
Music .......................................................... Jude Marier

Sally Pafford Memorial Scholarship
This award, given annually to a rising junior majoring in the Humanities, has been established by President Emeritus Ward Pafford, his family and friends, in memory of his wife, Sally, a devoted and loving wife and mother. Mrs. Pafford's happy impact on the lives of the former West Georgia College students, faculty and staff, as well as on the community at large, will continue to be felt.

Recipient .................................................. John Miley

The H. O. Lovvorn Scholarship
Mary Lovvorn, faculty member at the former West Georgia College, has endowed a scholarship in memory of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. H.O. Lovvorn. A leading citizen of Carrollton and Vice President and Manager of Mandeville Mills, Mr. Lovvorn was instrumental in choosing Carrollton as the location of West Georgia College. The scholarship will be awarded to a humanities major to be selected by a committee chosen by the Dean of the School of Arts and Humanities.

Recipient .................................................. Madison Renardel de Lavalette

Frank R. Hunsicker Award in Management
This award was originally established by the Department of Management and endowed by family and friends in honor of Frank R. Hunsicker. Dr. Hunsicker provided outstanding service and leadership to that department and UWG for 21 years as a faculty member and chairman before retirement in 1996. The annual award is presented to a senior management major who has earned a cumulative GPA of at least 3.2 and who most exhibits the qualities of leadership, managerial ability, professional achievement, and integrity associated with the discipline and exemplified by Dr. Hunsicker. The recipient receives a monetary award and an individual plaque. Additionally, the student’s name is engraved on a plaque located in the Department of Management and Business Systems.

Recipient .................................................. Jacob Turner
Outstanding Undergraduate Student in Speech-Language Pathology
This award honors an undergraduate student in Speech-Language Pathology who demonstrates exemplary academic performance, intellectual curiosity, a positive attitude, and behavior denoting a commitment to professionalism.

Recipient ................................................................. India Garcia

Outstanding Student in Elementary Education
This award honors an outstanding undergraduate student who demonstrates high academic performance, exhibits professional dispositions that exemplify and exceed characteristics expected of candidates in the Elementary Education Program.

Recipient ................................................................. Hannah Harding

Outstanding Student in Secondary Education
This award recognizes a Secondary Education major who captures the essence of best practices in undergraduate Secondary Education.

Recipient ................................................................. Cody Braland

Outstanding Student in Physical Education
This award recognizes excellence in teaching, academics, and professional dispositions in Physical Education.

Recipient ................................................................. Andrew Brown

Outstanding Student in Sport Management
This award recognizes a Sport Management student who represents high academic achievement, and a strong professional disposition.

Recipient ................................................................. Rayanna Janke

Outstanding Student in Special Education
This award honors an undergraduate student majoring in Special Education who represents the first-generation of his/her family to go to college; criteria include factors related to academic achievement, performance in field experience, and quality of dispositions.

Recipient ................................................................. Lucas Pace

Outstanding Student in Health and Community Wellness
This award recognizes a Health and Community Wellness student who represents high academic achievement, and a strong professional disposition.

Recipient ................................................................. Kelly Shoemake
INGRAM SCHOLARS

The Ingram Scholars are selected each fall according to those enrolled students with an overall GPA of at least 3.75 and with at least 29 credit hours at UWG.

Connor Abernathy
Esther Abston
Ashley Acosta
Brandon Adams
Jada Alexander
Merci Alexandre-Jackson
Hannah Allen
Megan Allinson
Caleigh Alsip
Sameerah Amao
Zoey Andrews
Logan Angle
Madeline Archer
Katherine Arp
Alexandria Arp
Hailey Arrington
Ethan Askin
Alexis Atkins
Emily Atwood
Adeline Auclair
Nathaniel Austin
Damaris Aveldanes-Veliz
Morgan Ball
Famatta Barjobo
Julia Barnett
Rylee Barrett
Emma Bartlett
Jarek Bates
Jillian Bates
Marmara Bazile
Andrew Beam
Leslie Becerra-Turner
Hillary Bell
Stephanie Beltran
Blair Benefield
Emily Berry
Resha Birdine
Raven Birdsell
Courtney Bixby
Sydney Blackmon
Kylee Blankinship
Reagan Bloedt
Dalton Bloom
Dalton Blue
Kelley Boatman
Seth Bochy
Kaleb Boland V
Taylor Borngesser
Jacklynn Boswell
Alexis Boykin
Abigail Boylen
Ben Bradley
Brooke Brady
Robyn Brantley
Oskar Bressner
Hannah Bright
Tanner Brock
Tara Brock
Kirsten Brock
Jasmine Brown
Dana Brown
Riley Brown
Arabella Brown
Selah Burley
Sara Burns
Britny Butler
Cheyenne Byrd
Tyesha Byrd
Tracey Cambron
Zoey Camp
Blakely Campbell
Madison Campbell
Sarah Capp
Abigalie Carr
Kaden Carr
Jackson Carroll
Abigail Carter
Caroline Cartwright
Mary Grace Casey
Lainey Cash
Samuel Castoe
Charlee Causey
Jordan Chambers
Christopher Chandler
Trinity Chapman
Chanyn Chapman
Daisy Gonzalez Castaneda
Andrew Gooch
Danielle Gorman
Jason Grance
Nathaniel Gray
Ella Griffith
Ryan Grindle
Ethan Grindy
Michael Hadden
Trenton Haines
Jayla Hare
Jack Harney
Ryan Harper
Rachel Harry
Sidney Haynes
Caitlyn Heath
Emma Helton
William Helton III
Erika Hembree
Miranda Hemingway
Abigail Hemozkiy
Jordan Henderson
Jerkeka Henderson
Morgan Hendrix
Michelle Hernandez
Emma Hernandez
Yareli Hernandez
Alexander Herrero
Isabella Herring
Mckenzie Herron
Charles Hickman IV
Jalah Hicks
Bailey Higgins
Daenecia Hines
Jesse Holbrook
Emma Hollenbeck
Seth Hopkins
Dylan Hopper
Brianna Horns
Shealeigh Hott
Trystyn Hovey
Esmeralda Howard
Echelon Howell
Emily Howie
Elijah Hudgins
Clinton Hudgins
Kaleb Hyatt
Jessica Ingram
Christian Jackson
Taylor Jackson
McKenna Jackson
Tolla Jackson
Caleigh Jackson
Grace Katherine James
Rayanna Janke
Camryn Jeffries
Kaylee Jernigan
Genesis Jimenez
Lindsey Johnson
Alaina Johnson
Carly Johnson
Josiah Jorek
Luke Joyner
Marissa Keeler
Lucy Kemp
Cadie Kilgore
Jenna Kinard
Melissa King
Chloe King
Kinsey Kunkel
Zoe LaBreche
Rita Lancheros
Tiffani Lane
Madalyn Langley
Jenna Langley
Roze Langley
Alexia Laye
Vo Mong Tuyen Le
Emma Ledford
Valeria Lee
Kimberly Leprone
Awtum Lewis
Jaycee Lewis
Maxwell Libardi
April Lindon
Jennifer Lochli
Lacey Loggins
Trevor Long
Francisco Lopez Miranda
Christopher Lovvorn Jr
Lyndsey Lowery
Daisy Lugo
Ida Lunsford
Madison Luster