Welcome to Commencement at the University of West Georgia!
An academic commencement is unlike any other ceremony. The importance of the occasion is underscored by the use of symbols and traditions which have their origins in the medieval academies. The academic dress, the mace, many of the words we use, and even the diplomas themselves derive from a long and distinguished academic history.

We hope you will take time to look through this program. In it, you will find explanations of some of the customs and symbols you will witness today. We hope your understanding of these academic traditions will add to your enjoyment of the commencement ceremony.

We are happy to have you with us today as we celebrate the achievements of our graduates.

Welcome!
Commencement
SUMMER 2023 CEREMONIES

University of West Georgia
July 22, 2023
The Coliseum
Carrollton, Georgia
Summer Semester Commencement • July 22, 2023 • The Coliseum

10 a.m.
Undergraduate Degree Candidates
All Colleges and Schools

2 p.m.
Graduate Degree Candidates
All Colleges and Schools

CALL TO ORDER
Dr. Michael Hester
Director of UWG Debate & Coordinator of UWG’s African American Male Initiative

NATIONAL ANTHEM
Vickie Brubaker
Soprano

SGA WELCOME
Tyler McCoy
President, Student Government Association

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS
Dr. Brendan B. Kelly
President

CONFERRAL OF DEGREES
Dr. Jon A. Preston
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs
Dr. André L. Fortune
Vice President for Student Affairs
Dr. Sharmistha Basu-Dutt
Associate Dean of the College of Arts, Culture, and Scientific Inquiry
Dr. Mike Dishman
Dean of the College of Education
Dr. Christopher Johnson
Dean of the Richards College of Business
Dr. Karen Owen
Dean of University College and Honors College
Dr. Jennifer Schuessler
Dean of the Tanner Health System School of Nursing
Dr. Matt Varga
Dean of the Graduate School
Dr. Brad Yates
Dean of the School of Communication, Film, and Media

10 a.m.
Anne Barnhart
Library Faculty

2 p.m.
Dr. Beth Sheppard
Library Faculty
SUMMER SEMESTER COMMENCEMENT • JULY 22, 2023 • THE COLISEUM

HOODING OF DOCTORAL CANDIDATES

Dr. Logan Arrington  
Assistant Professor of Instructional Technology

Dr. Stacey Britton  
Associate Professor of Science Education

Dr. Julia Chibbaro  
Professor of Counselor Education

Dr. Georgia Evans  
Clinical Assistant Professor

Dr. Neill Korobov  
Professor of Psychology

Dr. Jennifer Schuessler  
Dean of the Tanner Health System School of Nursing

Dr. Trina Wood  
Lecturer of Special Education

INDUCTION INTO ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Christopher Sanders  
Chair of Alumni Association Board of Directors

ALMA MATER

Vickie Brubaker

FACULTY MARSHAL

10 a.m.  
Ms. Bonnie Jett  
Senior Lecturer and First Year Writing Program Coordinator

2 p.m.  
Dr. Sooho Lee  
Professor and Graduate Coordinator of Public Administration

MACE BEARER

10 a.m.  
Dr. Soo Moon  
Assistant Professor of Literacy and Special Education

2 p.m.  
Bridgette Stewart  
Chief Wellness Officer
Dear Graduates,

On behalf of the University of West Georgia, it gives me great pleasure to commend you on this momentous occasion! This significant milestone represents a tremendous achievement of which you and your families should be extremely proud.

The accomplishment of attaining your degree is immense, but your successes and contributions will not end today. This experience will open pathways to even more powerful opportunities well into your future and to the lives of those around you. I look forward to seeing the indelible impact you will make in your communities.

As a graduate of UWG, your educational credentials and experience, as well as your personal and professional successes, will forever be interwoven into the success of this institution. As such, it is vital for you to continue advocating for and supporting your university as it continues to build the value of your degree. Your continued involvement and engagement in your university will enhance and bolster our ability to continue serving future generations of students who will follow in your footsteps.

No matter what challenges we face in the future, I know the world needs you, your ideas, and your creativity now more than ever. So go out as alumni of UWG and do amazing things!

Go West, and Go Wolves!

Brendan B. Kelly, Ph.D.

President

University of West Georgia
Bachelor of Arts

Art
Tiyanna Bashay Echols

English
★ Caleigh Ilisa Bryn Alsip
Savonne DeMarcus Dennis
▼ Danielle Marie Gorman
McKenzie Brynn Harris

History
Ethan Christian Brant
Aaron Brent Christopher
Kayondrea Jakiya Evans
Cole Robinson Johnson
Bobby Darrell Ricker Jr.
Joshua Grayson Sorensen

Philosophy
Hunter Elijah Brawner
Shannon William Dodson

Theatre
Katherine D. Lueken

Bachelor of Fine Arts

Art
Donald Marcus Loney Jr.
★ Jewel Harmani Mason
Ikem Chizaram Onyinanya
★ Juliana Tais Rodriguez
Allisa Page Wiley

Bachelor of Science

Anthropology
Barbara S. Forrister

Biology
Dia-Monae M. Barnett
Ashlee Loreen Brown
★ Elodie Calixte
Joshua Alvin Caraway
Jaiya Monae Asante Carey
Alicia Kawanna Carter
Samantha Frances Chardavoine
Mia Nicol Culpepper
Jessica Lynn Davenport
★ Tayte S. Fuqua
TeAmber She’Kel Gilbert
Ashlynn Danielle Grooms
Alexus Shaniece Jordan
Shelby Seay McGarva

Carlie Mychal Monsour
Malati Rizal
Emma R. Roberts
Aaron Murphy Robinson
Jessica Rae Sconyers
Jamelia Walsh
Austin James Wolford
★ Alexander Michael Yates

Chemistry
Remilekun Bank-Olemoh
★ Jiyun Han
Philip Luke Marquez

Computer Science
★ Alex Christopher Decesare

Mathematics
Daniel David Griner II

Physics
Francesc Garcia Chillida
Alberto Garcia Munoz

Psychology
Hannah Lynn Adams
Jordan Gabriel Baldwin
Rodonna Elaine Brown
Latika Barnes Clarke
Casten Jesse Donaldson
Skylar Ne’ Chele Dunson
Paola Denise Fernandez
Pamela Brooke Floyd
Madison Christine Fortney
Francea Britany Gabbidon
Tyclyn Laine Gilbert
★ Brandy Nicole Green
★ Dylan Thomas Hopper
Tye Alexander Jeffcoat
Keshawn T. Johnson
Anna Katherine Srey Keck
India A. Leslie
Audrey S. Lewis
Steven Grant Malecek
Marshaee Janice Mason
Jamia Murphy
Kerrington Tyler Parker
Madelynn Rose Rockwell
★ Molly Elizabeth Stretch
Tamaria L. Stroud Alfred
Carsyn Aleah Wilkey

Social and Behavioral Health
Kayla Randyia Barrett
Alexandria Dezerhea Chappell
Milton GeWalt Johnson
Jasmine Delicia Lee
Marty Rosanna Mapp
Alexis Parkmon

Sociology
★ Samantha Ann Boughner
Madison Lee Brabenec
Ashley Greely Brown
Claudia Elizabeth Cheramy
Courtney Beth Denninger
Adonise M. Perry
★ Mayra Roman Pineda
Justice Strickland
★ Monica Gabriela Turner-Becerra

Master of Arts

History
Jimmie Hugh Brown
Titilope Rosemary Falola
Breanna Faith Gehweiler

Sociology
Mitchell Edwin Grimes

Master of Music
Adam Nicholas Daniel
Valynca Lee Hurd
Steven Chase Pauley
Mary Tackett Ritchea
Jennifer Plumley Sims
Cynthia Colyar Videtto

Master of Science

Applied Computer Science
Maged Adel Assad
Sudheer Reddy Chintalapudi
Chadwick David Flanigan II
Alyssa M. Harris
Vijay Kondapaneni
Amber Nichole Nicholas
John Cantrell Owens
Jennifer Brooke Parks
Kavya Pasangulapati
Leemarosi Tamilarasan
Chiaosy Tan

Biology
Andrew P. Pitt

★★ cum laude
★★★ summa cum laude
★ also Foreign Languages & Literatures
Doctor of Philosophy in Psychology

Consciousness and Society
Brittany Rockelle Brashear
Nonbinary and Genderqueer Millennials’ Use of Symbolic Resources and Gender Discourse
Faculty Advisor: Dr. Neill Korobov

Bachelor of Science

Health and Community Wellness
Kyle Thomas Bailey
Skylar Justis Boles
Mary Michael Carter
Mitchelle Charles
Alexis Nicole Conner
Breautae Filmore
Chastity C. Grimes
Lauren Elizabeth Harper
Lynsey Jean-Louis
Wallace Judah Johnson
Xyre J. Wilson

Sport Management
Jared I. Atchison
Martriell Jermaine Beall
Desmond Jevon Blacksher
Brerentrick Rashad Brooks
Jacob Garrett Chadwick
Devin Lamont Coleman
Raven Collins-Thomas
Grace Mya Hall
Austin Xander Kingsbury
Jerry Dewayne Mays II
Deontae Antron Overstreet
Tyrecucz L. Pattman
Michael Rolando Paz
Elijah Alan Sibley
Jaeven O’Neal West
Joshua Caleb Wilds

Bachelor of Science in Education

Elementary Education
Victoria Leigh Anne Parker
Sydney Danielle Simpson

Speech-Language Pathology
* Comfort Fokuo-Ameyaw
  Tiffany Novalee Sierra

Master of Arts in Teaching
Nicole A. Buckner
Latisha D. Burns
Kelsey Sue Caylor
Jonathan Daniell
Allison Denney Dedman
Jason Kern
Nicolle Laster
Krista Lovelady
Bridget Eileen Piatt
Shannon Pipkin
Rebecca Raines
Michelle Santana
Chase Dakota Thompson
April Daniel Wade
Joseph W. Wamutitu
Shamara Charnell Williams

Master of Education

Elementary Education
Amy Adcock
Stephen Jacob Baxley
Kelsea Jane Breedlove
Laura Briggs
Rebekah Buchanan
Caroline Elizabeth Burdett
Danielle Curry
Calli Jewel Davis
Madison Haley Flowers
Wrenea Francis-Hayden
Meaghan Alyssa Hoffman
Julie Dawes Holmes
Taylor Marie Hughley
Chasity Annette Hughley

Ashley Isbell
David King
Elizabeth Helen Klapka-Langley
Allan Michael Lee
Danielle Megan McAllister
Jessica Sarah Milovich
Candice Rene’ Monts
Bessie Nicole Powers
Mallory Lauryn Rice
Brenna Grace Robinson
Imani Cheryl Rogers
Donna Lee Roycroft
Taylor Rutland
Desmond Jamal Smith
Alex Spencer
Vanessa Jasmine Stewart
Breonne Marie Thomas
Chelsea Denise Veal
Bethany Amber Vega
Kriste Ann Wiggs
Charity Wilson
Kamie Leann Wilson
Karley Ryan Wright

Instructional Technology, Media, and Design
Leah Campbell
Jason DeLong
Darby Turman Dunn
Casey Elizabeth Emmanuel
Aimée Jeanminette Harris
Andrea Marie Height
Steve Edward Hickman III
Tyler Curtis Hinesley
Cody Michael Hunnicutt
Bonnie S. Johnson
Jennifer Lynn Killian
Alexis Laughhunn
Zale N. Lewallen
Amber Marie Merschat
Cynthia Dunaway Ray

* cum laude  ❧ magna cum laude
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physical Education</td>
<td>Alyssa Courtney Snelson, Stephanie Lynn Thomas, Carol A. Tyner, Rachel Lee Yingling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Counseling</td>
<td>Erica Banzhof, Elesha Janelle Foster, Melissa Gaddis, Erica Yvonne Johnson, Jacob R. Jones, Caitlin Jean Schmidt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading Instruction</td>
<td>Rhiannon Nicole Brown, Daria Ulana DiResta, Stacey Moffett Gailey, Lindsey Monique Griffin, Samantha Merrell, Candace Pence, Paige Partlow Williams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Education</td>
<td>Johnnie Aaron Blankship Jr., Teresita Rena Cherry-Taylor, Tiffany Janae Evans, Stephanie J. Heath, Aleena Ines Jackson, Jennifer Johnson, Sydney Kay Jones, Katie Akin Myers, Aaliyah Derianna Schmidt, Amanda Sills, Destiny Tashawndra Sterling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master of Science</td>
<td>Darian Carlton Bernard, Travious DeVante Couch, Colin Andrew Dekker, Bryant Breshawn Derricotte, Antoine Hudspeth, A’Ronnie TeAirra Mathenia, Micheal Bernard Robinson Jr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instructional Technology, Media, and Design</td>
<td>Lori E. Moon, Brianca Noble, Kristen Kelley Olivarri, Lindsey Thompson Patterson, Sasha-Ann Latoiya Pinnock, Heather Prochaska, Loran Amy Richardson, Kurt Rinehimer, Nedra Robinson, Chantelle Allyse Rogers, Anna Louise Royal, Shaunte Christine Shoelen, Austin Jake Smith, Lisa Taylor, Tiffani Taylor, Ayana Folami Thomas, Ashley Elizabeth Triggs, Jeremy Everett Trimmer, Jessica Lauren Walker, Kylie Michelle Way, Latisha Monique White, Melissa Lynn White, Donna Whitfield, Debora Worthy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational Leadership</td>
<td>Torie Callaway Benjamin, Stephanie Michelle Canion, Stacey Robertson Cooke, Victoria Ashley Esnault-Brewer, Joy Narvil Goble, Shante Hendrick, Logan Alacia Herring, Andrea Hopson, Hannah Rebecca Interholzinger, Shavon Jackson, Maria Antoinette Josey, Alyssa Martin, April L. Nelson, Ruth Elizabeth Scott, Erica Taylor Wiggins, Keidra LeChelle Williams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elementary Education</td>
<td>Kristopher Edward Akers, Seth Bishop, Jamie Lynne De Paz Hilton, Jan M. Hansen, Robert William Hutchins, Jennifer Elizabeth Johnson, Margo Jean Kemmerer, Jason M. Kinsey, James Brandon Kunz, Christina Ellyn Long, Christopher Minich, John Poucher, Jennifer C. Schmidt</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Secondary Education</td>
<td>Tasia Camile Ayers, Janella Claudette Bullard, Catherine Cathey, Jennifer C. Schmidt</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Lindsay Erin Theaker
Emily Patrick Walker

**Special Education**
Amanda Janelle Anderson
Bailey Jo Bailey
Marla Suzanne Beasley
Janeil Bell McKenzie
Sadie Claire Binkley
Mary Ellis Burgess
Fatima D. Cahir
Susan Leigh Carter
DeAnna Renee Clark
Travis Richard Clement
Abby Norman Cross
Brooke Ann Diamond
Taylor Diamond
Tara Suzanne Friedman
Natasha Quinta Green
Sarah Thomas Gunter
Amanda Stillwell Hart
Amy Heil
Ashley Houser
Christa Hulburt
Kristie Cox Ingram
Nakash Kimble
Rae Nell King
Lisa Grice Kirkland
Anne Marie Koehler
Janet Susan Felice Ledet
Rachel Love
Parks D. Millard
Amy Moor
Kimberly Ann Page
Rachel Elyse Person
Jessica Leigh Phillips
Penelope Plant Phillips

Michele Realpe
Angela M. Rodgers
Lisa Diane Rosario
Ernest Brian Schmidt
Maya Audrey Simmons
Dana Celeste Tillman
Tori Brandy Tucker
Joseph Underwood

**Doctor of Education in Higher Education Administration**
Hailey Doss Hester
*Leisure Constraints: A Quantitative Analysis of Campus Recreation Outdoor Adventure and Intramural Sports by Race and Gender*
  Faculty Advisor: Dr. Dena Kniess

Girves Antwan Holloway II
*The Implications of Familial Involvement on College Graduation Centered Around Students of Color*
  Faculty Advisor: Dr. Stacey Britton

Maria Socias Jaochico
*A Phenomenological Study of the Circle Experience: Restorative Justice in a Graduate Academic Environment*
  Faculty Advisor: Dr. Trina Wood

McKenzie Cary Peterman
*A Narrative Study on the Career Progression Enablers and Barriers of Women of Color Serving in Mid-Level Staff Administrative Roles at Historically White Public Institutions*
  Faculty Advisor: Dr. Dena Kniess

**Doctor of Education**

**School Improvement**
James Derrick Burchette
*Developing Leaders of Change: Processes and Perceptions Found in a Leadership Development Program*
  Faculty Advisor: Dr. Georgia Evans

Christopher Duncan Davies
*College Readiness Self-Efficacy, Dual Enrollment and Advanced Placement*
  Faculty Advisor: Dr. Diana Mindrila

Kayla Duncan
*Examining Students’ Approaches to Transfer in Mathematics*
  Faculty Advisor: Dr. Logan Arrington

Sean McLaughlin
*High School Classroom Engagement and the Use of 360-Degree Immersive Video*
  Faculty Advisor: Dr. Logan Arrington

**Doctor of Education in Counseling and Supervision**
Ivan Wendell Barclay
*BLISS Behavioral Health Wraparound Services: An Evaluation of a Program’s Objectives Using a Multilinear Regression Model*
  Faculty Advisor: Dr. Julia Chibbaro

**Bachelor of Business Administration**

**Accounting**
Olayiwonuola Olakayode Ajayi
Elizabeth Maria Arias
Stephen Woodbury Cade
† Katherine Teal Clark
Jalen Eric Andrew Ferguson

Hong Chuyen Hoang
★ Camryn Jonathan Jeffries
Aaliyah Celeste Johnson
Lalajiana Triniece Johnson
Macie Olivia Lambert
Harriet Wambui Maina
Monica Alejandra Montoya Garcia
Jayden Kiira Moore
Victoria Mary Preston

Mary Spencer
Travis Jakob Suttles
Daniel Anthony Walters

**Data Intelligence and Business Analytics**
★ Marcel Alexander Young

**Economics**
William Lambert III

Richards College of Business

★ cum laude
† also Management
Bethuel Christoce Lemma
Colby Alexander Shell

Finance
Terrance Dontell Byrd Jr.
Grayson Dian Elizabeth Campbell
Jon Maxwell Douglas
Zackary Greg Gaines
William Lawrence Garmon III
MacKenzie Eleanor Gresham
Samuel Antonio Ortiz

Management
Tiffany R. Adams
Jade Adjoa Addo
Jasmine Nicole Bartell
Matthew Tyler Blevins
Chibinyerem Karachi Chukwuezi
Michael Jarrett Dean
Cauy Edwin Foster
Brittany Nicole Jackson
Jaira Leigh Jones
Joshua Allen Koonce
Sarah Kathryn Leroux
Aidan K. Lovelady
 Destiny Lynn Lytle
Sandra McCormick
Christian A. McGuiness
Joshua Ray McKown
Jasmine Dominique Miller
Jordan Roy
Deja Janae Russell
Tatiana Mashay Walker
Tara Lexington Williams

Management Information Systems
Jacob R. Baldizon
Michael Blake Clefisch
Isaac Joseph
Taevione Javario Delawrence Lanier
David Tya Miller

Nana Kwabena Owusu
Tyler Dixon Richardson

Marketing
Brandon Arbegast
Lauren Marie Baker
Sydney Alexa Blackmon
Ariel Nicole Brown
Cristiann A. Bullock-Hutchinson
Victoria Kyion Chivers
Hunter Christopher Clark
Mackenzie Grace Davis
Khairi Amir Denmon
Durrett Casey Duffey
Annslie Rain Galliher
Laura Alicia Guillermo
Justice Armon Hawkins
Thomas Hagan Holmes
Taariq Jameel Mitchell
Lindsay Katherine Montay
Emily C. Moorhead
Colby Hamilton Sales
Jemelka Juanique Shotwell
Alexandria Victoria Singleton
Austin Taylor Southerton
Rendell J. Soverall
Lindsey Christina Wessels
Kathryn Vanicia Williams
Neal Williams
Mary E. Yarbrough

Bachelor of Science

Economics
Christina Carson
Aimee Christian Spurley
Jessica Danielle Strickland

Master of Business Administration
Quanasya Marie Adams
Avery Farrill Anderson

Madison Turner Biggers
Malik Joseph Buck
Justin Lee Bundrage
Alyssa Days
Valencia Renee’ Deary
Thad Michael Dooley
Logan Michael Fink
Caitlin Garner
Eshonte Tamia Griffin
Kathleen Josette Gustama
Danterrius Tramaine Hall
Emily Joy Hummer Harper
Verse’o’ter Ivykaw Abellegh
Austin Stephen Jaynes
Angele Cinzia Kamga Nguemo Kamdom
Deja Rena Lindsey
Hannah Faith Moody
Tiera Shanice Moore
Kabwe Clovis Mulenga
Erica Lynn Murphy
Jordan Norbraten
Peace Ginika Okeke
Tammy D. Parson
Michael Charles Prados II
Madeline L. Todd
Kyle Werner
Terence Le’Nard Whitlock Jr.
Kaiya Wilkes
Ernest Ruble Wright III
Michael Robert Zabetakis

School of Communication, Film, and Media

Bachelor of Science

Mass Communications
Paul Jacob Appleman
Oscar Lee Byrd II
Maddison Houghton
Hallie Howard

Kendra Sallie Lewis
Maia Newhouse
Lauren Elizabeth Ridley
Brandon D. Shipp
Keilah Marie White

* cum laude
† magna cum laude
¶ summa cum laude
also Marketing
also Management
Tanner Health System School of Nursing

Bachelor of Science in Nursing
Branden Patrick Delany
★ Alison Rogers Dishman

Doctor of Education
Nursing Education
Sarah Louise Caffrey
Implicit Biases and Influencing Factors of Prelicensure Nursing Faculty Regarding English-as-Additional-Language Prelicensure Nursing Students
Faculty Advisor: Dr. Jennifer Schuessler

University College

Bachelor of Arts
Global Studies
★ Ethan Christopher Brown

Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies
Anne Bascom
Mickaela Carlene Boothe
Sasha Nicol Catalan Echeverria
Elyssa L. Clarke
MaKaLa Denise Ellington
Sarah Elizabeth McFall
Marquise Evelyn Parham

Bachelor of Science
Criminology
Demarcus Sanchez Allen
Sharon Sue Anderson
Haley Noelle Buttry
Katie Lauren Carwile
Anna Leigh Chesnut
Cameron Maurice Cobb
Malaisla Adiyah Goompa

Tyler Michael Gosdin
Quiesha Michelle Hales
Alexis Loren Harrison
Alexandria Marie Hicks
Erik Shannon Jeffries
★ Tiffany Kriel
Chrsyal Taylor Lewis
Patshko Kimbangi Lutumba
★ Amber D. Malone
Owen Daniel Marchbanks
Preston G. Marlowe
Carlos Martinez-Perez
Aleesa Shakira Mason
Sarah Elizabeth McFall
★ Van Meadows
★ Gracie Morgan Norfleet
★ Sean Alexander Penney
James Darnell Rainer Jr.
Deonte Tyrik Rogers
Jay M. Smith
Isaiah Maurice Spann
★ Sheniah Yuantria LaTijah Swint
Carlton Mackenzie Williams
Organizational Leadership
★ Maria Elaine Blencowe

★ Chay David Butler
★ ZOE Giese
★ Matthew Kormann
Misty Latham
★ Trevor Ray Long
Dan Prescott Parham
Michaela Ann Petzel
★ Roberta Prince
★ Christian Thompson

Political Science
★ Logan T. Angle
James Chase Arrendale
Carsyn NaCoLe Gober
DeAnthony DeShawn Morris Holness
Dansia Lee Long

Master of Public Administration
Kennedy Paige Dickerson
Elizabeth Ellen Douglas
Ricardo I. Hernandez
Laura Brooke Lambert
Brianna Wells
Honors College Graduates

The Honors College curriculum is the most academically rigorous curriculum offered at this university. To graduate with Honors College distinction, students must: (1) complete all of the requirements for their degrees in their majors; (2) earn credit for 25% or more of their course work in Honors College courses, including at least two seminars at the junior or senior level; (3) complete a research project; and (4) maintain a minimum grade point average of 3.2 in Honors College courses and in all other academic work. Completion of this distinctive curriculum is a mark of scholarly excellence and is recognized on all official University of West Georgia transcripts and diplomas.

Tayte S. Fuqua  
*Bachelor of Science in Biology*

Danielle Marie Gorman  
*Bachelor of Arts in English and Foreign Languages and Literatures*

International Graduates

Anil Kumar Devarasetty  
*India*

College of Education

Jiyn Han  
*South Korea*

College of Arts, Culture, and Scientific Inquiry

Peace Ginika Okeke  
*Nigeria*

Richards College of Business

Titilope Rosemary Falola  
*Nigeria*

College of Arts, Culture, and Scientific Inquiry

Verseo’t Iyorkar Abellegah  
*Nigeria*

Richard College of Business

Kavya Pasangulapati  
*India*

College of Arts, Culture, and Scientific Inquiry

Francesc Garcia Chillida  
*Spain*

College of Arts, Culture, and Scientific Inquiry

Kabwe Clovis Mulenga  
*Zambia*

Richards College of Business

Leemarosi Tamilarasan  
*India*

College of Arts, Culture, and Scientific Inquiry

Honorary Degrees

University System of Georgia senior institutions are allowed to recommend to the Board of Regents honorary degree recipients for each academic year. UWG’s basic criteria for an honorary degree recipient are notable achievements in an academic field, the arts and letters, the professions, or public service. Nominations are solicited from the college community and are reviewed by the Honorary Degree Committee, which makes nominations to the president. The president then submits a candidate’s name to the University System staff for final consideration by the Board of Regents. The chancellor then makes a recommendation to the Board of Regents.

UWG began awarding the Doctor of Humane Letters in 1996, and recipients of this honor include:

Roy Richards Jr., 1996

Dr. Julian Stanley, 1997

Howard “Bo” Callaway, 1998

Millard Dean Fuller, 1999

Dr. Nikki Giovanni, 2000

Dr. Richard Neal Zare, 2001

Alice H. Richards, 2002

Dan T. Cathy, 2004

Richard H. Glanton, 2005

Dr. Andrew C. von Eschenbach, 2006

Dr. J. Willis Hurst, 2009

Robert J. Stone, 2012

A. Paul Cadenhead, 2012

Phillip E. Kauffman, 2013

Stephan Lyall Penley, 2014

Melissa P. “Missy” Dugan, 2016

Steve R. Adams, 2017

Nellie Duke, 2018

Laura Richards, 2018

Zachry “Zac” Brown, 2023
Congratulations on your graduation from the University of West Georgia, and welcome to the Alumni Association! You have joined a distinguished group of people who have graduated from or attended UWG. We represent a group with a variety of socioeconomic and ethnic backgrounds, vocations, ages, and opinions, but one thing we resoundingly share is our dedication to the University of West Georgia.

Every graduate of the University of West Georgia is a member of the UWG Alumni Association. We strive to keep you connected to your alma mater long after you graduate and support you along your journey through life and your career. You belong at UWG as a student and as a graduate. We invite you to engage with the Alumni Association through joining an alumni network in your area, attending events on campus or virtually, following us on social media, and keeping in touch with us. Remain an active member of the UWG community as you participate in UWG traditions like Homecoming and A Day, UWG’s annual day of giving.

You’ll also have opportunities to invest in UWG as you volunteer your time to speak to a class, mentor a student, and make career connections. You can show your UWG pride as you celebrate UWG with your networks and on social media or cheer on the Wolves at an athletic event. Your opportunities to continue your connection to UWG are almost endless.

We will reach out to you soon. You can also learn more at westga.edu/alumni and keep up-to-date with the latest alumni and university news. We look forward to your involvement with your Alumni Association and to seeing you again soon!

Mr. Christopher Sanders ’03
Chair of Alumni Association
Board of Directors
Leadership

University System of Georgia

Board of Regents
Dr. Sonny Perdue, Chancellor
Harold Reynolds, Chair
Erin Hames, Vice Chair
Doug Aldridge
Tom Bradbury
Richard "Tim" Evans
W. Allen Gudenrath
Bárbara Rivera Holmes
Samuel D. Holmes
C. Thomas Hopkins Jr., M.D.
James M. Hull
Cade Joiner
Patrick C. Jones
C. Everett Kennedy III
Sarah-Elizabeth Langford
Lowery Houston May
Jose R. Perez
Neil L. Pruitt Jr.
T. Dallas Smith
James K. Syfan III

University of West Georgia

Leadership
Dr. Brendan B. Kelly, President
Dr. Jon A. Preston, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs
Dr. Meredith N. Brunen, Vice President for University Advancement and CEO of University Foundations
Dr. André L. Fortune, Vice President for Student Affairs
Scott McElroy, Vice President for Business and Financial Services and Chief Business Officer
Kimberly Scranage, Vice President for Strategic Enrollment Management

University of West Georgia Deans
Dr. Mike Dishman, Dean of the College of Education
Dr. Pauline Gagnon, Dean of the College of Arts, Culture, and Scientific Inquiry
Dr. Christopher Johnson, Dean of the Richards College of Business
Dr. Karen Owen, Dean of University College and Honors College
Dr. Jenny Schuessler, Dean of the Tanner Health System School of Nursing
Andrea Stanfield, Dean of Libraries
Dr. Matt Varga, Dean of the Graduate School
Dr. Brad Yates, Dean of the School of Communication, Film, and Media

University of West Georgia Foundation Inc., Executive Committee
2023 – 2024 Trustees
Gary Kinard ’91, Chair
Josh Chapman, Vice Chair
David R. Edwards, Treasurer/Investment Committee Chair
Honey Shackelford ’76, Secretary
Ann Newman ’01, Past Chair
Dr. Jason Thogmartin ’06 ’07, Audit Committee Chair
Tonya Byrd, Board Development Committee Chair
Christa Pitts ’97, Resource Development Committee Chair
Scott Kauffman ’97, Real Estate Committee Chair
Dr. Meredith Brunen, CEO/Vice President for University Advancement
Dr. Brendan B. Kelly, UWG President

Alumni Board Executive Committee
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Traditions of Commencement

Academic Regalia

The academic regalia worn by today’s participants dates back to the Middle Ages. The clergy were the literate class, so early academic costumes were clerical. The monk’s habit and cowl worn over the head were predecessors of the modern black gowns. Hoods and capes were also necessary during European winters because the buildings where scholars lived and studied were cold.

Over time, gown styles became standardized for the three types of degrees. Those holding the bachelor’s degree wear a gown distinguished by long, pointed sleeves. Master’s and specialist degree candidates wear the traditional black gown with full-length square sleeves. The doctor’s gown is faced with a broad strip of velvet and has three horizontal velvet bars on each sleeve.

The greatest symbolism is shown by the hood. The bachelor’s hood is three feet long with a three-inch band of velvet. The master’s and specialist hood is three-and-one-half feet long, faced with a three-inch band of velvet. The doctor’s hood is four feet long, faced with a five-inch band of velvet. The color of the velvet band on the hood indicates the field of study in which the degree was earned or granted, and the hood is lined with the color of the university granting the degree.

The Mace

During the Middle Ages, the mace was a weapon used in battle, but as newer and more powerful military arms developed, it was adopted by academia as a symbol of the power of ideas, truth, and wisdom. In modern times, the mace is carried to symbolize the unity and aspirations of the collegial community.

The mace is constructed of cherry wood, black walnut, hand-turned walnut, and walnut burl. The institution’s seal adorns the head of the mace and complements the presidential medallion.
About the University of West Georgia

The University of West Georgia has been a beacon for learning since 1906. Originally founded as an agricultural and mechanical school, the institution became a two-year college and charter member of the University System of Georgia in 1933. In 1957, it expanded to a four-year institution and received university status in 1996. Today, UWG is a leading residential, doctoral comprehensive university that offers a broad undergraduate and graduate curriculum based on a liberal arts foundation.

At UWG, students are positioned to launch their careers upon graduation— if not before. In 2021, UWG began implementing its strategic plan for 2021-26, titled “Becoming UWG.” With members of the university community dedicating themselves to the curation of a first-choice university, the plan establishes a path for the institution’s long-term growth and excellence.

With an enrollment of 11,914 during the fall 2022 semester, UWG currently offers 106 programs of study, including two two-year degree, 46 at the bachelor’s degree level, 24 at the master’s level, six at the specialist level, five at the doctoral level, and 13 post-baccalaureate, six undergraduate, and four post-master’s certificates. The university prides itself on a diverse student body, as students come from most counties in Georgia, as well as from 31 other states and 62 other countries.

UWG has many ways for students to become involved on campus. The university hosts more than 170 registered organizations in addition to many intramural and recreational sports. As the UWG Wolves, the university is a member of NCAA Division II, competing in the Gulf South Conference. The university fields eight women’s and five men’s intercollegiate athletics teams, as well as co-ed and all-female cheerleading squads. Service-learning is also a basic tenet of the institution, as it has been recognized by the Carnegie Foundation for its institutional commitment to community engagement through teaching, research, and public service.

Over the past five years, the campus has improved and expanded facilities that enhance opportunities for students to thrive and succeed, such as renovation to the Biology Building and new construction for the Student Health Center and Roy Richards Sr. Hall, home of the Richards College of Business. The university is currently renovating the Humanities Building, home to programs in art, English, film, history, language, performing arts, and philosophy. UWG Newnan has also expanded its location at the historic Newnan Hospital, and more course options are becoming available at UWG Douglasville.

Visit westga.edu for further information on the university or call 678-839-4000 to schedule a tour.
Alma Mater

Felton Dunn

In the western pines of Georgia standing strong and true,

Our wise Alma Mater beckons to the Red and Blue,

Though you be in learning founded youthful yet you be,

While thus guided by tradition yet you still breathe free,

Dear West Georgia Dear West Georgia standing strong and true,

Our wise Alma Mater beckons to the Red and the Blue.

Officially Adopted Spring 1984
Commencement
SUMMER 2023 CEREMONIES